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GOALKEEPER?

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THE TIMES

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 1993

Compromise on Sheehy reforms

Howard deal sweetens pill for the police

By RICHARD FORD
AND STEWART TENDLER

TWO thousand senior police jobs are to go under compromise proposals for the most far-reaching shake-up of officers' pay and conditions in thirty years.

Michael Howard has retreated from some of the most controversial reforms recommended by Sir Patrick Sheehy, but he has accepted key principles designed to streamline forces and reward able officers.

Three senior ranks are to be abolished, a form of performance-related pay is to be introduced, and housing allowances are to go. The most senior officers will be given fixed-term contracts, but the home secretary has decided against imposing them on lower ranks. He has also decided not to cut constables'

Police leaders welcomed the home secretary's compromise on key Sheehy recommendations but rank and file officers will remain uncertain on pay

starting salaries. "Our objective must be to create the framework which will be as effective as possible in the fight against crime," Mr Howard told MPs. "To be effective, they must be properly led, managed and rewarded."

By watering down the Sheehy proposals, Mr Howard will hope to end hostilities with the force at a time when law and order is at the heart of the government's strategy. Last night the first indications were that he had succeeded, with police leaders hailing the ten-point package as a triumph for commonsense and a vindication of their four-month campaign against the most contentious of Sir Patrick's 272 recommendations.

In the Commons, Mr Howard said that change was necessary to make sure that Britain's police remained the best in the world: pay had been too dependent on length of service and bureaucracy and chains of command had increased, leaving too many officers behind desks instead of on the streets.

Although he decided not to adopt the Sheehy proposals for performance-related pay, the home secretary intends to introduce a simplified version of payment by appraisal and officers who perform badly could end up with a pay cut.

The housing allowance, worth an average of about £3,000, is to be abolished for new recruits and frozen for existing officers. But Mr Howard

has rejected a suggestion that constables' starting salaries be cut by £2,000, saying that such a move would not help to recruit the older, more experienced and high calibre officers the service needed. Nor is he to make officers serve 40 years before receiving a full pension at 60. Other pay, pension and overtime details are to be decided by national reviews that must complete their work within five months.

Mr Howard is, however, to implement some of Sheehy's radical suggestions for cutting bureaucracy and middle management. The ranks of chief inspector, chief superintendent and deputy chief constable are to be abolished by April 1995. About 1,500 are expected to go through natural wastage, others will be promoted, demoted or made redundant.

Chief constables will be able to use the money saved on new technology, crime prevention or recruiting constables for frontline duties. If the abolition of the three ranks led to 2,000 middle management jobs going, the saving could put 3,000 more officers on the beat, Mr Howard said. Last night Sir Patrick declined to comment on the announcement, but Mr Howard's carefully calculated package appeared to have won over most police leaders. Fred Broughton, vice-chairman of the Police Federation, said it was a triumph of commonsense and the federation's general secretary, Lynn Williams, added: "The home secretary has listened to the voice of the service."

Chief Sup Dave Golding of the Police Superintendents' Association said: "I am surprised that we managed to get the Home Office to see reason in as many areas." Senior officers were, however, disappointed that three ranks were to be scrapped.

In the Commons, the shadow home secretary, Tony Blair, accused Mr Howard of retreating and complained that the details were not clear, which he said would undermine police morale.

Matthew Parris, page 2
Leading article, page 21



Smith gets conference poll boost

By PETER RIDDELL

JOHN Smith has boosted his approval rating with the public following his victory in a key vote over relations with the trade unions at the Labour party conference last month.

He emerges as the main beneficiary of the autumn conference season. By contrast, John Major has not benefited from the Tory conference and his generally well received speech. His rating continues to bounce along just above the record low touched in July, while still only one in ten of the public are satisfied with the government's record.

Labour retains its large lead over the Tories at 45 against 29 per cent, with the Liberal Democrats on 23 per cent. The proportion of the public satisfied with the way Mr Smith is doing his job as Labour leader has risen from 34 to 41 per cent over the last month. This is the highest level since he was elected leader 15 months ago.

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'Highway bribery' to keep drivers sober

By RAYMOND MGADZAH

DUTCH drink-drive campaigners have hit upon a novel idea in the run up to the festive season - reward the innocent.

Under a scheme to be introduced this winter, drivers who pass the breathalyser test will be rewarded with 30 guilders (just over £10). The idea, which is partly backed by Dutch soft drinks companies, is the brainchild of a road safety group named Veilig Verkeer Nederland. The size of the reward represents the annual per capita amount paid in soft drinks tax.

Dutch police are aware that the scheme could be open to abuse - with sober motorists driving repeatedly around the block in an attempt to collect the reward. Police will not be dishing out cash payments that might prompt a quick return to the pub to celebrate. Instead, motorists will be given a form which they will have to fill in to ensure that the money is deposited in a bank account.

"It sounds like highway bribery," said a spokesman for the Portman Group, a body set up four years ago by Britain's top alcoholic drinks companies to tackle drink-related issues such as pub violence and drink-driving. "I can't see it happening here."

The spokesman said the scheme was "extraordinary", adding: "It strikes me as being rather corrupt. I don't think people need to be bribed to do the right thing. That is not a very UK way of doing things."

Drivers would probably prefer to decide for themselves whether being rewarded for not drinking too much is morally dubious. But the British Soft Drinks Association, which represents non-alcohol and non-dairy drinks companies, does not seem set to follow the Dutch lead.

The association has not held a Christmas campaign for years, although a spokeswoman said that individual

BR goes to back of bids queue

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BRITISH Rail will be able to bid for private franchises only if there are no good competing tenders from commercial companies.

In a small concession to buy off any Conservative backbench rebels, an amendment to the railways bill will allow BR to apply where the franchising director is unsure about the quality of bids. However, John MacGregor, the transport secretary, announced last night that BR could not put in a tender when there was already a "credible" alternative bid.

Labour MPs and British Rail accused the government of creating a "sham" compromise but ministers were confident that it was sufficient to win the support of potential rebels.

Betrayal claim, page 2

UN loses heart over peace enforcement

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A DISPIRITED United Nations secretary-general has told a closed meeting of the UN Security Council that he does not believe the UN to be capable at present of peace enforcement operations.

Briefing the 15-nation security council on his return from a tour of Africa, Boutros Boutros Ghali said that his message to African leaders was that the role of the United Nations was to maintain, not to impose, peace. The troubled Somalia operation has become an acute source of embarrassment to the UN secretary-general.

"We are at a crossroads," says Kofi Annan, the head of UN peacekeeping. "The international community may not be ready to impose its will."

Dr Boutros Ghali emerged as a strong advocate of peace enforcement soon after taking office in January 1991. As well as calling for a UN reserve army as allowed for in the UN Charter, he proposed the cre-

ation of "peace enforcement units" under his control, an unprecedented idea that would have extended the secretary-general's powers far beyond those foreseen in the charter. He lobbied long and hard for international intervention in Somalia.

Although the security council plans to extend its mandate for two weeks, there is a growing belief that the Somalia operation will soon revert to a traditional peacekeeping mission.

The UN's apparent retreat in Somalia puts a question mark over UN policing of any settlement in Bosnia.

"The brutal fact of life is that there is no valiant light brigade or John Wayne figure galloping to the rescue in the last reel," said Cedric Thornberry, the organisation's top civilian official in the former Yugoslavia. "Maybe there will be no last reel."

Rebel church, page 16

California firestorms raze caravans and mansions

UNCONTROLLABLE wild-fires ravaged southern California for the second day yesterday, destroying everything in their path from the mobile homes of the poor to the ranches and mansions of millionaires (Mario Fletcher writes).

Dozens of homes worth \$10 million or more were destroyed in the elite private enclave of Emerald Bay in the picturesque seaside town of Laguna Beach, 40 miles south of Los Angeles. Fire reportedly destroyed at least 15 homes on the hills overlooking

Malibu, where Hollywood stars have their beach homes. About 150 homes were burned down in Altadena, a hillside suburb north east of Los Angeles. Among the exclusive properties threatened by as many as 16 different bushfires were those of Tom Selleck and Richard Widmark, the actors, and Buzz Aldrin, the first man on the moon. Roger Johnson, who heads President Clinton's General Services Administration, lost his home in Orange County.

Clinton pledge, page 15

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Ministers fail to agree on £53bn cut-off for spending

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

After three hours of debate yesterday, cabinet ministers failed to approve Kenneth Clarke's proposals to contain spending below £253.6 billion. A special cabinet meeting will be held next Tuesday to try to thrash out a deal, although most ministers expect that more meetings will be needed. Downing Street maintained that "substantial progress" had been made, although it is clear that several ministers are still fighting their corner.

The environment department yesterday emerged as one of those worst hit. John Gummer, the secretary of state, appears to have failed to protect his budget from real-term cuts. The £8 billion housing budget has been heavily hit, as has transitional relief for the council tax. The revenue support grant, which forms the bulk of the £38 billion environment budget, has also been squeezed.

Other spending ministers were reported to be concerned at the effects on their own departments. Cuts in housing and social services will put a heavier burden on health and social security. Reduced grants to the Housing Corporation will also penalise the construction industry.

Although defence was expected to dominate yesterday's agenda, that will now be discussed in more detail next Tuesday. Malcolm Rifkind has clawed back the more draconian cuts and has dropped his threat of a review.

The cabinet meeting, the longest in recent years, took place against serious threats of a revolt from senior backbenchers, who have warned that they are even prepared to force a general election if further substantial defence cuts are announced.

Several backbenchers have claimed that "national security" should come before social security. The same backbenchers, however, expect Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, to come up with substantial compensation for pensioners hit by VAT on fuel.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, is believed to have secured a tiny real-term increase in her £30 billion budget in return for significant efficiency savings, while John MacGregor, the transport secretary, has reluctantly accepted big cuts to his multi-billion road programme.

Ministerial sources pointed out that swingeing real-term cuts were inevitable given that 60 per cent of the £253.6 billion budget would increase in real terms to cover existing commitments on social security, health and education.

Search for peace in streets stained with blood



Security remains tight on the streets of Belfast, where a soldier takes aim as his armoured vehicle passes an image of Mary and Jesus. Peace hopes, page 11

RSI does not exist, judge decides

Continued from page 1

"It is an expression of what a patient is not only as to what a patient is really suffering from but also as to the cause of it, thereby creating further confusion, particularly among employers because of the uncertainty surrounding it and its apparent causation."

"There are so many diverse views about RSI that their very existence is a monument to doubt on the subject," the judge said. The end of Mr. Mughal's employment with Reuter was based purely on his ability to do his job, he added. "Having seen some of his copy work, I am not surprised he was offered redundancy. Here were the seeds of unhappiness, perhaps even frustration, that led him along the rocky road he has trodden, ending in my judgment today that no injury was suffered in his employment."

The National Union of Journalists, which backed the damages claim, faces a bill for Reuter's legal costs. The union said an appeal was being considered and other RSI sufferers should not be disheartened. About 70 more NUJ members with similar claims had awaited the judgment, with thousands in other industries.

Among national newspapers, the worst affected has been the *Financial Times*. There about 15 members of staff have been medically retired. All have accepted payments without prejudice and nine are planning court actions against the paper in an attempt to secure additional payments. All the cases arose soon after the introduction of computer technology; since then, strenuous efforts have been made to improve working conditions to prevent a recurrence.

Other courts in Britain have recognised the condition. Ten days ago a worker who developed RSI making Toshiba cassette tapes was awarded £20,000 in the High Court. Earlier this year, Judge Prosser, 60, caused controversy when he ordered a 16-year-old boy found guilty of rape to pay his school fees of £500 for "a good holiday" so that she could get over the ordeal. The Court of Appeal increased the sentence to two years in a detention centre.

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Mutt and Jeff take police for a ride

So now we know. To put the frightened officers on the police, the previous and present home secretaries have formed the classic two-man team: Mutt & Jeff, hard man, soft man.

The technique is not new, certainly not to the police. To crack a tough nut you first send into the cell a complete animal.

He terrorises the prisoner, kicking, lunging, yelling sadistic threats, until just when the prisoner despairs of seeing another dawn — the cell door opens and, with a cry of "Stop!", a courteous and softly-spoken officer enters. He calls off his brutish comrade, orders him from the room.

"I do apologise for the behaviour of my colleague," he says. "Here, take a seat. Relax. A cigarette? Brandy?"

His mate has a nasty temper, he says; he nearly murdered somebody recently and has committed a string of assaults. There are others in this establishment, too, who would like the prisoner's scalp.

But he, Jeff, is more reasonable. "I'm on your side." He will try to protect the prisoner, but if Jeff is to keep fellow-officers on a leash, the prisoner will have to be slightly — just slightly — more co-operative.

Pathetically grateful to the man he now sees as his friend, the prisoner talks.

As home secretary, Ken Clarke made a classic Mutt. Nobody better plays the 14-stone bruiser. Collar away and shirt untucked, reported to have done unspeakable things to nurses, doctors, ambulance men and teachers, he got stuck straight into the police.

There were threats about pay, overtime, and job-security. When the police requested better protective gear, he binned the request. Worst of all, he set his rottweiler, Sheehy, on them. By the time Clarke was called off and sent to the Treasury, morale had crumbled and the police were near despair.

Yesterday afternoon the cell door opened and in

walked Michael Howard, the new home secretary. Slight, dapper and gentlemanly, the smooth-tongued barrister waved his hand, and the Sheehy nightmare fled. Without mentioning Mutt by name, he implied that Clarke's approach had been out of order.

Already he has agreed to the new protective gear. Now, he told them, he would shield them from such atrocities as fixed-term contracts, crude attempts to relate pay to performance, lower starting-salaries...

"Hear, hear!" You could sense the relief of the huge police lobby on the Tory benches. Michael Sheehy MP, parliamentary spokesman for the police federation, reacted with delight. The new home secretary was on their side. Howard was at his most eloquent: cool, reasonable, civilised and totally in command.

"We have listened carefully to what the police service had to say... The front line... unique and vital importance to us all... fight against crime... lethal dangers... tragic deaths..."

There were to be more officers on the beat. Nobody's pay would be cut. No requirement of long service for a full pension. No threat to the housing allowances of serving officers. You could almost smell the cigar smoke. "Cognac? Draw up a chair."

But, implied Mr Howard, there were a couple — just a couple — of modest little ways the police could help him. After all, Mutt was still around, living next door in the Treasury. So we'd have to look carefully at pay increases. Some of the junior ranks might benefit from fixed-term contracts. Perhaps a less crude way of relating pay to performance might be found. And for new officers, housing benefits would stop.

There was more of this but not everybody stayed to hear. We were off to our reports. "Police victory."

Howard's reforms, page 1

Frustrated BR staff accuse MacGregor of betrayal

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR British Rail employees said last night they felt "betrayed and abandoned" by John MacGregor, the transport secretary. Confronted by what they regarded as a confidence trick they accused the chief architect of the rail privatisation process of abusing the democratic process.

They claimed that in order to defuse a potential Tory rebellion, Mr MacGregor had delayed his response to the controversial Lords amendment "until the fifty-ninth minute of the eleventh hour". One InterCity manager

said morale throughout the entire organisation was at rock bottom. "MacGregor knew that given a level playing field we would have won most of the franchises."

"But that would have undermined the entire dogma-driven process so he did not dare do that."

Another senior employee, who works for Network SouthEast, said that throughout the entire workforce at every level there was a growing disenchantment with the whole process being carried on in Parliament. He added they did not know whether they were to be allowed to be serious players in the industry or merely a

rump running decaying lines with crumbling infrastructures which no private operator wanted.

The sources said they found it incredible that with the bill almost passing into law, "gaping holes" had still to be addressed. It had not even been decided how rough potential franchise bidders would be expected to pay for using the track.

Although some executives have expressed an interest in forming management buy-out teams, they are said to prefer being allowed to bid under the BR banner.

According to an internal document disclosed earlier this year by *The*

Times, the InterCity West Coast line from London to Glasgow, which receives no subsidy, could be forced to close without huge amounts of money being spent on it.

After months of uncertainty and squabbling between banks, the government will today announce that construction work can begin on the Jubilee Line extension to the London Underground network, seen as vital to Docklands.

Work on the £1.8 billion line, which will run south of the Thames from Green Park to Stratford in east London, is expected to take over four years and create up to 20,000 jobs.

RSI dates back to 1818 diagnosis

By DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

THERE is nothing new about the concept of repetitive strain injury (RSI). RSI related to traumatic tenosynovitis was first described by a Frenchman, Dr Velpau, in 1818, and he and all the doctors who have been diagnosing traumatic tenosynovitis since would be surprised to hear the outright rejection by Judge Prosser of a repetitive strain injury.

In traumatic tenosynovitis, repetitive movements result in the inflammation around tendons and their sheaths. Similar signs and symptoms can also affect the soft tissue in the upper arm, or near the Achilles tendon, even though there is no tendon sheath in either.

When the judge rejects RSI as a diagnosis, he must be referring to the popular rather than the medical use of the word. The diagnosis has recently become a popular one with some lay people who use it to explain a wide variety of symptoms, both physical and mental, which they have ascribed to their work.

Doctors at a loss to explain their patients' problems have occasionally been prepared to

acquiesce to the sufferer's diagnosis. Further confusion, as the judge implies, has been added by lay writers.

True traumatic tenosynovitis is caused by off-repeated stereotyped movements, usually of the upper limbs and particularly when finger and thumb movements are combined with wrist action.

Dr Blood, medical adviser to Lyons, first reported traumatic tenosynovitis among typists in 1942. The modern computer, with its rapid action, needing of necessity a different wrist movement, is undoubtedly more likely to induce tenosynovitis than the old-fashioned typewriter. Computer operators can reduce the risk if their chairs, and computer screens, are carefully positioned so as to reduce tension, and if they rest for several minutes from time to time.

Traumatic tenosynovitis exists, and can be due to repetitive strain injury. But the term RSI has become debased and many who claim to have it are in fact, as the judge says, suffering from very different problems.

'Bribes' offered to keep drivers sober

Continued from page 1

members have undertaken initiatives. A close eye will be kept on the Dutch initiative.

Superintendent Peter Williams of Dorset police favoured improving road safety by deterring potential offenders, rather than rewarding the sensible ones. "I can see a big danger in terms of abuse of the scheme — people following police cars hoping to be breathalysed," he said.

Andrew Howard, head of road safety at the Automobile Association, was also unimpressed. "The British drink-drive problem is dominated by someone who has about six or seven pints and doesn't give a fig for the law, not someone who has had one or two pints," he said.

Mr Howard's verdict on the Dutch reward scheme was

lukewarm. "It is not tackling our biggest problem, which is that of persistent offenders," he said.

British drivers looking for some return for abstinence over the festive period must make do with a Beefeaters pub and restaurant driver scheme which will be launched shortly for the second year running.

The scheme offers up to three free soft drinks to the member of a group of patrons who is staying sober for the evening in order to drive the others home.

But there is cash to be won in a schools competition sponsored by the Portman Group to raise awareness of alcohol-related problems.

Seven winners, to be announced next month, are to get £100 each while their schools will be given £400 each.

Women's ordination clears legal hurdle

The legal challenge to the ordination of women priests was dismissed yesterday after a two-day judicial review in the High Court. Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Tuckey upheld the right of the General Synod to legislate on "matters concerning the Church of England".

The Church Society was seeking to quash the decision in July by Parliament's ecclesiastical committee. But the judges, on the eve of today's debate in the Commons, held that Parliament's right of veto was sufficient.

Belfast soldier charged

Andrew Brian Clarke, 26, of Merseyside, a trooper in the 9th/12th Royal Lancers, was charged in Belfast with attempting to murder Eddie Copeland, a mourner, outside the home of Thomas Begley, the IRA man who died while planting the Shankill Road bomb. He was remanded into military custody on bail of £2,000 until January 19.

By horsebox to hospital

An elderly polio victim was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, by horsebox after her ambulance was cancelled for the third time. Florence Mould, 83, who was unable to travel by car, had to travel the four-hour round trip on a carpet of straw. Hertfordshire Ambulance Service said a lack of resources had forced it to cancel.

Teenage killer gets life

A teenage thief who killed a man while high on lighter fuel grunted and whistled yesterday when he was jailed for life. Jamie Frater, 19, stabbed Geoffrey du Rose, 45, because he tried to stop him fleeing from a shop in Bournemouth, Dorset, where he had been stealing. Frater denied murder, claiming solvent abuse had impaired his mind.

Parents prosecuted

A couple are being prosecuted by Suffolk education authority for refusing to send their 16-year-old foster daughter, who has Down's syndrome, to a special school 30 miles from home. Bob and Madge Gibbs of Mendham arranged home tuition in protest at the authority's decision not to let her attend a local mainstream school.

VAT 'will close papers'

Over 240 regional and local newspapers would be forced to close with 2,500 job losses, if the Chancellor imposed VAT on the press in next month's Budget, the Newspaper Society said. The tax at 17.5 per cent would push down circulations by a million, the society claimed, cutting by a third the revenue forecast by the Treasury.

Surgery for Winner

The film director Michael Winner is to have a second heart operation next month. Mr Winner, 57, whose latest film, *Dirty Weekend*, goes on release today, also confirmed that his six-year relationship with the actress Jenny Seagrove had ended and that he had resumed his relationship with Catherine Nielsen, also an actress.

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سكنة من الاصل



Neighbour 'stabbed naive and trusting little girl 37 times'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A YOUNG girl skipped to her death behind her killer in the belief that he was her friend, a court was told yesterday. Only in the moments before her murder did Nikki Allan, 7, realise things were not right, but it was too late to prevent her being bludgeoned with a brick and then stabbed 37 times.

Leeds Crown Court was told that George Heron, 24, killed Nikki on the night of October 7 last year, leaving her body in the derelict warehouse in Sunderland where the murder took place.

Aidan Marron QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Heron had taken an "unusual interest" in the girl during the three months since he had moved into his sister's maisonette on

the Wear Garth estate in Sunderland, where the child also lived with her mother and three sisters.

Yet when police carried out house-to-house enquiries after her body was found, Mr Heron denied knowing her. Later he admitted liking Nikki, who had come to the maisonette to play with his three-year-old nephew. "She reminds me of me as I used to be," he told detectives.

Mr Marron said that an eye witness who was probably the last person to see the girl alive had seen her "skipping and walking along" near the warehouse two or three yards behind a man whose description was similar to Mr Heron's. "It is inconceivable that this could have been a stran-

ger. It could only have been a man in which she had a naive and childish trust."

Mr Heron denies murder. As the case against him was outlined, Mr Heron began to cry. He frequently clasped a New Testament.

Mr Marron said many people had reported seeing the girl playing in the courtyard of the block where she lived. At least five witnesses said they had seen Mr Heron in or near a pub on the estate where Nikki had been seen asking for pennies for the guy.

Mr Heron's sister, Michelle, would tell how he had gone out to buy her cigarettes. He was known to wash or change his clothes rarely, yet when he returned soon after 10pm on that night he went into the bathroom and spent up to half an hour cleaning himself and putting on fresh clothes.

Mr Marron claimed Mr Heron had used two packets of cheese crisps which the girl was known to like to lure her away. It was only when they entered the derelict building that "her co-operation and voluntary approach ceased" and she became frightened.

"The girl began to scream and that screaming had to be silenced. He picked up a brick and hit her a solid, heavy blow on the head."

The jury was told she had fallen to the ground, striking her head on the wall and that Mr Heron hit her again with the brick as she lay on the floor. Mr Marron said: "He then produced a knife, lifted her T-shirt and carried out a frenzied attack, inflicting a total of 37 wounds to her chest."

Mr Marron said five knives had been recovered from Mr Heron's home, one of which matched the wounds in the girl's body.

The case continues today.



Nikki Allan, 7, skipped along behind her killer, alleged to be her neighbour

Peer's friend in bribery trial

AN ASSOCIATE of the Marquess of Bristol tried to bribe a witness in a drug trial to keep his old friend and employer out of jail, a court was told yesterday.

Nicholas Ashley, 44, offered £10,000 to Bruce Smith, a restorer of vintage cars, to "fudge" his evidence against Lord Bristol, 38, Bury St Edmunds Crown Court was told. The peer was facing charges of supplying cocaine and heroin.

However, Ashley, estate manager at Lord Bristol's Ickworth Park mansion in Suffolk, was acting out of a totally misguided sense of loyalty, said Anthony Wickham, for the defence.

"He was convinced there

was no truth in the evidence that Lord Bristol had supplied drugs and that it was a vindictive move to get him to abandon civil proceedings against Smith.

"He was sure Smith was going to give untruthful evidence and didn't want Lord Bristol to go to prison. He acted improperly, but from high and not base motives."

Shane Colleary, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr Smith and Lord Bristol had set up a company to restore old cars and open a motor museum at Lord Bristol's home, but the project ran into difficulties and Lord Bristol launched a £134,000 civil action against his partner. Mr Colleary said Mr

Smith, 46, subsequently went to the police, claiming that Lord Bristol had been supplying cocaine and heroin to his friends.

Police raided the peer's home and he was charged with possession and supply. He admitted possession in court but was cleared of supplying drugs. The bribery attempt, Mr Colleary said, happened in March last year.

Ashley, of west London, who has known Lord Bristol for about 20 years, was said to have acted without the peer's knowledge. He admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice and was remanded on conditional bail for sentencing on December 10.

Insulin ban parents killed their daughter

By A STAFF REPORTER

A COUPLE who refused to allow their diabetic daughter to receive modern medicine because of their religious beliefs were convicted of her manslaughter yesterday.

Nottingham Crown Court was told that nine-year-old Nahkira Harris wasted away before the eyes of her Rastafarian parents. She went into a diabetic coma and died because Dwight Harris, 32, and Beverley, 33, refused to allow her to be injected with insulin.

The couple, from Radford, Nottingham, were convicted by a 10-2 majority.

Mr Justice Tucker, postponing sentencing until next Friday for probation reports, said: "This is a case of great sensitivity and importance."

"Do not suppose that I am going to place either of you on probation. Your hopes are not to be raised. You are to hold out no hopes for the future."

During the trial, Peter Joyce QC, for the prosecution, said the Harris were told by doctors at the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, that insulin was the only way to save their daughter, but they took her away and did not return for six weeks, when she was in a coma.

Mr Harris wanted to know from staff if insulin came from animals and said he was not allowed to eat pork and beef.

He told nurses that he wanted to take his daughter to Africa to see a faith healer.

The couple, who have four other children, did not give evidence in court. But Nicholas Price QC, for Harris, accused a homeopathic doctor of gross negligence and said he could have saved the girl's life.

He said the couple took their daughter to see Dr Christopher Hammond at his surgery in Southwell. Dr Hammond spent 1½ hours with the parents before sending them to the Queen's Medical Centre, where their daughter died six hours later.

Mr Price said Dr Hammond failed to act properly.

Colin Hart-Leverton QC, for Nahkira's mother, said: "There is no evidence that they thought they were doing the slightest harm to their daughter or did it on purpose to harm her."

Gowrie resigns as chairman of Sotheby's

By ALISON ROBERTS AND SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

LORD Gowrie, chairman of this year's Booker prize judges, has resigned from his £150,000-plus post as chairman of Sotheby's Europe. His new job remained a mystery yesterday, although he admitted he was "one of the people being considered" for the chairmanship of the Arts Council, a high-profile post which falls vacant next year.

Lord Gowrie, 53, has also signalled his intention to make more regular contributions to the House of Lords on the subjects of arts and Ireland. He will remain a member of Sotheby's board. He will be replaced by Simon de Pury, the deputy chairman. In another move, Henry Wyndham, an art dealer and former Christie's director, will be the new chairman of Sotheby's UK.

Lord Gowrie's departure comes as no surprise to the art world: his reluctance to take orders from Alfred Taubman, the American owner of the auction house and a Detroit hypermarket-developer, was well known.

When Lord Gowrie was mooted earlier this year as a favourite candidate for the chairmanship of the Arts Council, it was felt unlikely he would take the job while it remained impeded.

When he left his post as arts minister in 1985, he remarked that it was impossible to live in London on £35,000 a year. His salary at Sotheby's is estimated to be between £150,000 and £200,000 a year.



Gowrie: friction with the American owner

Council holiday fails to stop boy offending

A BOY who recently came back from a £20,000 local authority-financed trip to Portugal has admitted committing several new offences since his return.

The holiday, paid for by Shropshire County Council, had been intended to reform his behaviour by taking him out of the environment in which he offended.

The 15-year-old, from Telford, Shropshire, had been placed at the controversial Bryn Melyn community home near Bala, Gwynedd. Mike Sherwood-Smith, for the defence, said the boy had now promised to stop offending and to change his behaviour. "His father is very disappointed with the way things have worked out, but he is not prepared to give up on his son," he said.

ted breaking into homes in Telford and stealing property and cash to a total value of £675 since his return. He also admitted charges of going equipped for theft and interfering with a car with intent to commit an offence. He was remanded in custody at Telford youth court for two weeks.

The boy had been found living with his father in Telford, having absconded from Bryn Melyn soon after returning from Portugal.

Mike Sherwood-Smith, for the defence, said the boy had now promised to stop offending and to change his behaviour. "His father is very disappointed with the way things have worked out, but he is not prepared to give up on his son," he said.

Rape case student claimed he avoided sex

A MAN accused of raping a fellow student denied that he had sex with her and said he had gone out of his way to avoid doing so.

Matthew Kydd, 21, is alleged to have raped the 18-year-old and then forced her to commit a series of other sexual acts in his room at Norwich City College.

The jury at Norwich Crown Court yesterday heard a statement that Mr Kydd gave to the police soon after his arrest. "I did not have sex with her. At no stage did I have sex with her. I went out of my way not to," he said.

Mr Kydd, from Read, Lancashire, told police that he avoided having sex with the girl because of her "terrible smell". He said they had gone back to his room, undressed and kissed passionately.

"She smelt like she had not had a shower for a long time," he said. He asked her if she had ever had sex with a black man, explaining that he was concerned about contracting the Aids virus.

Mr Kydd said in his statement: "She said yes, she had, and that did it for me. I did not want to know after that. I asked her if she had had an Aids test and she said yes."

Mr Kydd told police that he had wanted her to leave his room, but did not want her to be upset. They kissed and cuddled again before she dressed and left, leaving the door of his room wide open.

Mr Kydd, who is taking an HND computer course at the college, said that they then bumped into each other a day or two later and simply "smiled and acknowledged each other."

The case continues.

Witness says wife dreamt of insurance

By A STAFF REPORTER

SANDRA Wignall spent the money from her husband's life insurance "in her head" within weeks of allegedly luring him to his death, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

William Cook, a neighbour, said: "She was always on about it. She had already spent it in her head. She was buying a horse. She was going to Tenerife for Christmas. She said she would lend my wife and I £1,000. She said he was insured for £21,000. She had tried to get him insured for £51,000." Mr Cook, a taxi driver, told the court.

Mr Cook said Mrs Wignall talked to his wife and him about her sex life. "We found that quite strange as we were really complete strangers. She told us things she used to do with her husband Bob and that he was not that capable of doing it."

The prosecution has alleged that Mrs Wignall renewed an affair with her lover Terence Bewley nine days after her marriage to Bob Wignall in 1991. Nine months after her wedding she was said to have taken her husband into woods near their home in Addlestone, Surrey, on the pretext of feeding foxes.

The prosecution says he was battered and stabbed to death there by Mr Bewley and his friend Harold Moutt. The alleged twin motives for the murder had been "lust and greed."

Wignall stood to gain from her husband's life insurance policy and Mr Bewley was heavily in debt, the court has been told.

Mrs Wignall, 48, Mr Bewley, 43, of Ruislip, west London, and Mr Moutt, 42, of Ladywood, Birmingham, all deny murder last September.

Janet Wise, a barmaid who worked with Mrs Wignall at a public house in Virginia Water, told the court Mrs Wignall was obsessed with Bewley. "Her whole conversation and life revolved round him. At one time, she counted the hours she had seen him in a year and said it was only 24 altogether."

The trial continues today.

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THE TIMES WEEKEND

WIN two Andrew Varah chairs worth £3,000 (two similar chairs will be presented to world chess champion Garry Kasparov); meet Phoebe, Paul Heiney's pregnant sow, whose snout merits an entry in Jane's military compendia; and let Alan Coren guide you on a ghostly tour around a tower designed by Wren one and a half centuries after his death. Only in the Weekend section of The Times tomorrow.

AND THERE'S MORE

Roddy Doyle may have won the Booker - but which of today's first editions will become tomorrow's collector's items? Joseph Connolly investigates. Kriss Akabusi kicks off his running shoes and preaches to Ruth Gledhill; Perfect Weekend reveals who received 370 postcards from designer Paul Smith. Jane MacQuitty, The Times wine correspondent, takes off with the flying winemakers Ryman and Lurton, and lists this week's best buys, and Fiona Beckett investigates what's cooking at Wentworth golf club.

PLUS

Children's listings, a rake's progress on the latest ways to sweep up leaves, Nick Nuttall on water power, Derwent May's leather report, a visit to Beth Chatto's garden, a trip to Klosters and a walk on the wilder side of Cornwall.

vision

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Singer denies he broke promises to get his own way

By Andrew Pierce

ROCK star George Michael, taking the witness stand in the High Court yesterday in his fight to free himself from a recording contract with Sony, admitted his relationships with record companies had been marked by continual requests for more money.

But the singer, who was cheered by fans when he arrived at the court, denied that his requests had been "reasonably successful". He also rejected an assertion that he had been marked by broken promises on his part and threats to break them if he did not get his own way.

Michael, 30, also admitted that he had used an actor as a "body double" during filming of the video for his hit single *I Want Your Sex*. The video was banned by the BBC. Michael said an actor had stood in for him because his own body was "nowhere near" as good. "He was rather larger than me and there was no hair on his chest."

The star denied the suggestion by Gordon Pollock QC, counsel for Sony, that his motive in taking action against Sony was to get more money or get his own way. However, Michael did agree that he had effectively blackmailed his first recording company, the CBS affiliate Inner

George Michael took to the stage in the High Court for a performance which promises days of compulsive viewing

Vision, after his first hit single, Young Guns, with the pop group Wham!. The group refused to deliver its first album unless its contract was renegotiated. "So this is the first example of you breaking your promise to get what you want?" Mr Pollock asked. "Yes," Michael said.

The singer, appearing under his real name George Panayiotou, has embarked on what is expected to be a long and expensive divorce from his record company over a contract which has a further 15 years to run and which he says is a restraint to trade.

Relations between the singer and Sony deteriorated soon after the corporation took over CBS in 1988. When the CBS contract was renegotiated, the singer had been assured by Walter Yetnikoff, then in charge of CBS's worldwide music operations, that he could expect a deal equivalent to that of Bruce Springsteen or Billy Joel.

But when he made his pitch he was not surprised to be told he was asking for too much too soon. "You were asking for the world, weren't you?" Mr

Pollock said. The singer replied: "Absolutely. I would presume we were doing what was commonplace. You ask for too much and you'll get something lower but better than what you had. It's all a matter of degree." When negotiations were resumed following the success of his album, *Faith*, he was told it was "take it or leave it" time.

Michael admitted, under questioning from his counsel, Mark Cran QC, that he was motivated by royalties but only because a company would work harder to exploit an artist's work if their share of the profit was reduced.

When asked by Mr Pollock "give us some idea of what you're worth", Michael said: "I have more money than I know what to do with," before writing down a figure on paper. Press estimates, he said, were alarming.

He accepted that he had been given full control over his stage image. "They didn't tell you, for instance, whether to shave or not?" asked Mr Pollock. The singer smiled, and agreed.

The hearing continues.



George Michael leaves the High Court after giving evidence in his battle with Sony

No takers at £120,000 to head roads plan

By Tim Jones
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE salary on offer to the executive charged with delivering a "cost-effective" road programme for Britain has risen by £30,000 in six weeks.

The 33 per cent pay rise has been ordered by transport department officials as the cabinet discusses cutting public expenditure. The extra money has been offered by the department because it cannot find anyone to take on the task of giving Britain better roads.

At one time, the £75,000 basic salary offered last month for the chief executive of a new executive agency would have attracted a host of high-flying applicants. But, with the City buzzing with news of an Iranian bond dealer who reportedly earned more than £9 million last year, the proposed salary has proved inadequate.

Yesterday, the transport department re-advertised the post through Recruitment & Assessment Services, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, at "up to £120,000 including performance-related pay". But last night a senior City source said that the salary on offer was still "lamentable". He said people with equivalent responsibilities in the private sector would attract a package worth at least £250,000.

The successful candidate is expected to deliver the government's new road programme on time and budget.

Keep up defences, says Thatcher

By Paul Wilkinson

BARONESS Thatcher has joined the debate over threatened cuts in the armed forces with a plea for the country to keep its defences up.

In an oblique reference to the possibility of defence cuts of up to £1 billion, she said: "Don't let your guard down too soon, there are too many tyrants still in the world. If we value our liberty we must keep our defences strong."

Lady Thatcher was speaking in Leeds at a forum organised by *The Times* and Dillons the booksellers to promote *The Downing Street Years*. The former prime minister said that though the cold war was over, there were still many flashpoints around the world.

Citing the Falklands and the Gulf war, she told an invited audience of 900 that one of the achievements of her 12 years in power had been maintaining strong defences.

Lady Thatcher believed that the West should intervene militarily in the former Yugoslavia, and she advocated the use of smart weapons and laser-guided missiles to attack military installations with pinpoint accuracy.

Cocaine seizures increase by 20%

By John Young

THE number of cocaine and crack seizures increased by 20 per cent last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Home Office and the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Of the 2,400 seizures, 880 involved crack, the drug's derivative, compared with 580 in 1991. Some 2.2 tonnes of cocaine were recovered, nearly twice as much as in 1991, due to two large discoveries by Customs and Excise: 900 kilos hidden in lead ingots and 800 in a supply vessel in the Thames.

The NCIS warns of a growing number of juvenile crack addicts and of widespread abuse among prostitutes. It says the trade is largely under Jamaican control and originated in the Midlands and London.

The total number of seizures of all drugs last year rose by 3 per cent to 72,000, the smallest increase for more than a decade, according to the Home Office. Possession of cannabis was by far the most common offence, accounting for almost 90 per cent of 48,900 convictions.

About 3,400 offenders, 7 per cent of the total, were given immediate jail sentences. However, there was a move

towards cautioning instead of prosecution.

Heroin seizures were up 10 per cent to around 3,000. LSD seizures increased by half to 2,500, with the number of doses recovered totalling more than 540,000, compared with 170,000 in 1991. LSD was found by every police force.

Seizures of Ecstasy rose by almost 40 per cent to 2,400, compared with 1,700 in 1991 and 400 in 1990. Some 51 tonnes of cannabis were found, 60 per cent more than in 1991, but seizures dropped by three per cent to 57,700, the first recorded fall since 1975.

There was a record increase in seizures of amphetamines to 10,600, 55 per cent more than in 1991, and more than three times as many as in 1989. A study by the NCIS of drug abuse among 14 to 15-year-olds found that stimulants and hallucinogens, like amphetamines, cannabis and LSD, were the most likely to be offered, while cocaine and heroin were relatively rare.

The NCIS says: "This could represent a long-term trend where current youth culture rejects the junkie association of heroin abuse and looks to chemical substances where the dangers are perceived to be less."

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEIZURES				
	Total Cocaine	Heroin	Ecstasy	Cannabis
Avon & Somerset	1,782	38	41	1,450
Bedfordshire	343	9	2	278
Cambridgeshire	303	1	0	262
Cheshire	709	1	56	568
Cleveland	535	1	2	452
Cumbria	455	0	21	349
Derbyshire	631	7	18	423
Devon/Cornwall	1,395	11	29	1,149
Dorset	515	4	16	395
Durham	406	1	6	281
Dyfed Powys	759	1	5	648
Essex	1,351	9	23	1,092
Gloucestershire	754	1	23	628
Greater Manchester	2,070	59	257	1,484
Gwent	384	3	3	310
Hampshire	579	10	4	524
Hertfordshire	774	4	37	572
Humbly Grove	825	7	4	740
Leicestershire	1,940	10	108	1,443
Lincolnshire	528	9	9	441
Merseyside	384	4	1	310
Metropolitan & City	2,755	68	1,269	1,477
Norfolk	811	10	31	669
Northamptonshire	579	7	4	445
Northumbria	686	4	11	513
North Wales	733	1	31	810
North Yorkshire	474	2	15	368
Nottinghamshire	516	5	3	432
South Wales	1,139	8	3	1,003
South Yorkshire	1,370	12	80	1,013
Staffordshire	793	9	11	424
Suffolk	655	2	20	554
Surrey	850	11	8	573
Sussex	990	15	13	760
Thames Valley	1,720	6	12	1,513
Warwickshire	396	2	1	352
West Mercia	940	11	22	757
West Midlands	1,249	12	11	1,111
West Yorkshire	1,549	33	96	1,159
Wiltshire	914	5	7	716
Scotland	438	1	2	374
Central	101	1	0	87
Dumfries & Galloway	223	1	3	182
Fife	596	3	19	489
Glasgow	1,316	4	6	944
Lothian & Borders	313	1	1	289
Northern	4,422	31	154	3,625
Strathclyde	605	3	4	475
Tayside	383	3	4	285
RUC	7,630	391	165	6,793

Not all drugs are included in this table, and as a seizure can involve more than one drug, figures for individual drugs cannot be added together to produce a meaningful total.

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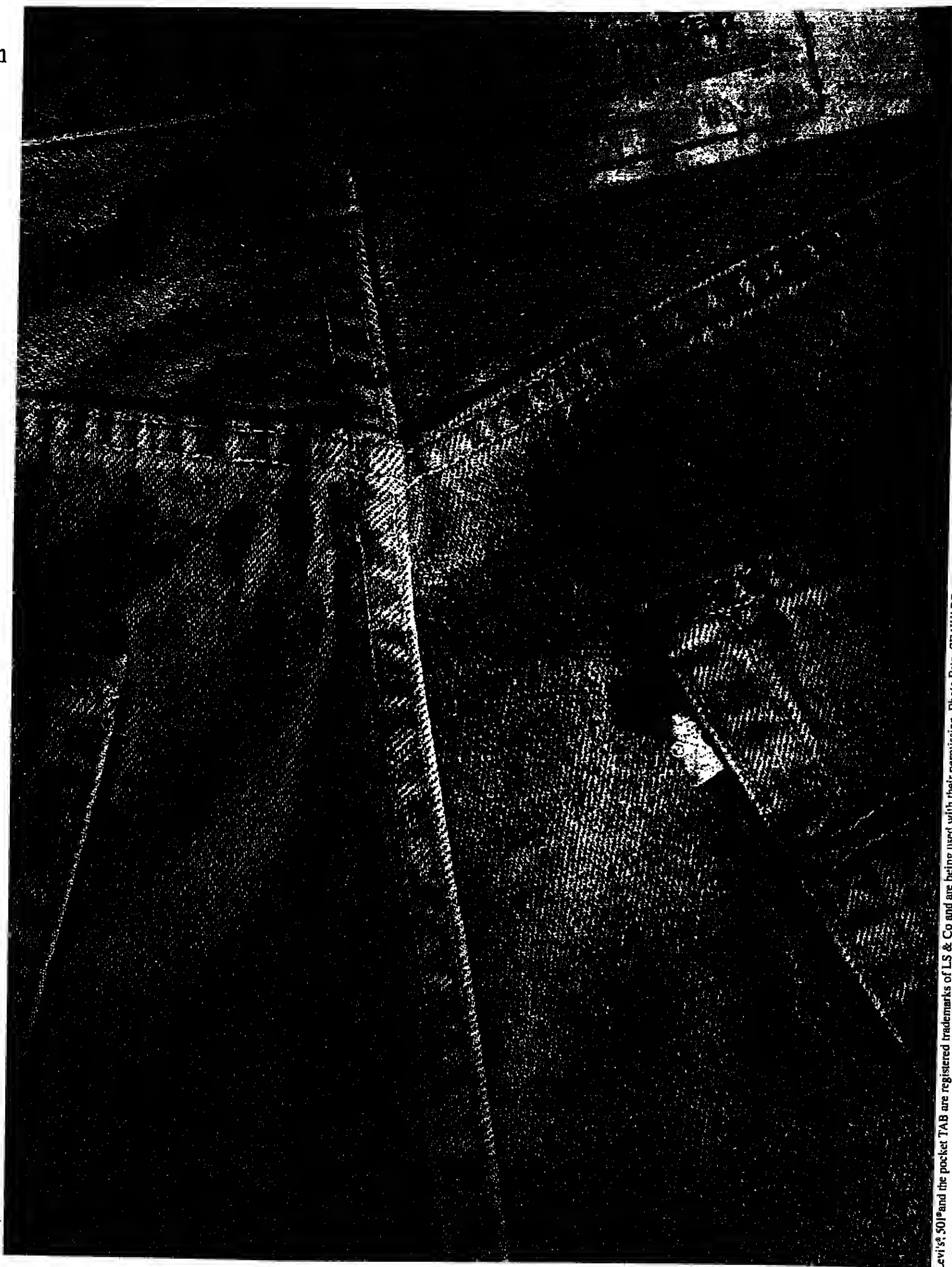
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مكتبة الوثائق

Law Society condemns home secretary for 'playing' with justice and launches scheme to open up courts

Howard accused of cynical attack on right to silence

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE president of the Law Society yesterday accused the home secretary of playing party politics with the criminal justice system over proposals to end defendants' right to silence. He also criticised "draconian" cuts to legal aid.

Rodger Pannone told nearly 1,000 solicitors at their annual conference in Brighton that Michael Howard was "demean[ing] his own office by threatening to throw away this right [to silence] for the sake of a cynical party conference one-liner".

The home secretary had "treated with contempt" the work of two Royal commissions which had considered the right to silence in the past 12 years. "In post for less than six months, what makes him think he knows better?" Mr Pannone said.

Mr Howard has announced plans to allow adverse comment to be made at trial if a defendant refuses to answer questions at the police station. At present no such comment can be made.

Mr Pannone went on to attack the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, for cutting eligibility for legal aid when faced with the soaring costs of litigation. It was a deplorable reaction, "so deplorable we were obliged to challenge the Lord Chancellor's action in his own courts".

He said: "Both the Lord

Chancellor and the Home Secretary are distinguished lawyers. Can they not see what a trial of destruction they are leaving in their wake?"

Mr Pannone said that the current attempt by ministers to "govern by sound bite" was alienating those who knew the daily realities of practice — lawyers, police, prison and probation officers, magistrates and court staff.

It was making them "cynical, disaffected and distinctly disinclined to give the government the benefit of the doubt when it seeks our co-operation".

Mr Pannone said many reforms were needed to court procedures and administration, to police manpower and funding, and to legal aid. But these needed to be handled "in a climate of cool deliberation" to gain a sufficient consensus of those in the system.

Solicitors had a duty, if they saw justice under threat, to make their collective voice heard. "And I assure you we are doing that, both privately and publicly, direct to government and to parliament."

He went on to point out that the government would be under-spent on legal aid by an estimated £30 million by next April. This had been achieved when the work load of the courts had dropped. He added that the Law Society had told the government cuts in legal

aid were not needed because of the fall in criminal prosecutions, and that was what appeared to have happened.

Later, in what some saw as a hint that the government might look again at legal aid cuts, John Taylor MP, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's department, said the changes were being monitored continually and the results would be available next month.

"The samples at this stage are not big enough to allow firm conclusions to be drawn, but the Lord Chancellor will be looking very closely at our November findings," Mr Taylor told the solicitors.

Mr Pannone, in his opening address, also criticised the over-supply of solicitors who relied on domestic conveyancing and who were hanging on, waiting for the market to pick up. He warned against the dangers of price cutting to attract conveyancing business.



Rodger Pannone condemned as "deplorable" the cuts made in the legal aid system

Insurance will pay loser's costs

By OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN INSURANCE scheme which will enable people to cover themselves against paying their opponent's legal costs if they lose a legal action was announced by the Law Society yesterday.

The scheme, which will come into effect next year, should open up access to the courts for those middle income groups who at present cannot afford to go to law and who do not qualify for legal aid.

The scheme will apply to cases which solicitors agree to take on under a no-win, no-fee or conditional fee arrangement and, in the first instance, will apply only to personal injury cases (excluding medical negligence claims). But, if successful, it may later be extended to cover other claims.

It is intended to remove the biggest stumbling block to a big take-up of no-win, no-fee work, namely the fear of ending up paying the other side's costs.

Under "no win, no fee" arrangements, a person has to pay his solicitor's fees only where he wins the action. But, if the litigant loses, he is still liable for the other side's legal

costs. Rodger Pannone, president of the Law Society, said the society believed it had overcome one of the most troubling aspects of conditional fees and that such arrangements would now represent "a real step forward in improving access to justice".

Another Law Society official, Andrew Lockley, said: "It is a breakthrough. By linking conditional fees and insurance, we think we have found a new way of funding litigation which should open up access to justice for many people on middle incomes."

Details of the insurance scheme are still to be hammered out between the Law Society and an insurance company which has not been named. But it is likely that clients will be able to insure against the other side's costs for a premium of £100 or less.

Law Society officials yesterday stressed it would not lead to a flood of unworthy cases because litigants still had to find a solicitor who was prepared to take their case on a no-win, no-fee basis.

Opt-out schools win pledge over budgets

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ACTION to speed the calculation of grants for schools which opt out was proposed yesterday by the government after criticism of widespread delays. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, announced plans to ensure grant maintained schools received early notification of their budgets.

The move follows confusion this summer when nine

out of ten opt-out schools did not receive their final budget from Whitehall until three months into the new financial year. Some head teachers complained after discovering their final grant was less than first indicated by officials. The delays also embarrassed ministers as they tried to promote opting out on the grounds that it freed schools from local authority red tape.

Under the plan, from January local education authorities (LEAs) will be required to provide more detailed information to education department officials, reducing their workload. Lady Blatch said she hoped grant maintained schools and LEAs would welcome the proposals as a "constructive response to concern about late notification of grants".

Ann Taylor, Labour education spokeswoman, said the failings lay with central government and its inability to administer grants for a mere 500 out of 24,000 schools.



Blatch: hopes to end embarrassing delays

THE TIMES DILLONS DEBATE Will women priests split the Church?



THE Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Richard Harries, and Karen Armstrong, for seven years a Roman Catholic nun, and author of the controversial new book *The End of Silence, Women and Priesthood*, will speak in support of women priests in this important debate. Challenging them will be Ann Widdecombe, MP, and Father Martin Flatman, vicar of Cowley

St John, Oxford, both of whom are leading critics of the decision to ordain women priests.

The debate takes place on Monday, November 8 at 7.30pm, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Times readers can obtain tickets (£10, concessions £5) either by completing the coupon below, calling at Dillons the Bookstore, 82 Gower Street, London WC1, or telephoning Dillons on 071-915 6612 (24 hours).

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Anxious town plans private police force

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TOWN in co. Durham is planning to raise a private squad of police officers to combat rising juvenile crime. The officers would be controlled by the police force but paid to live and work in the community.

Tom Toward, 50, town council clerk for Shildon, came up with the plan, which is believed to be the first of its kind in Britain. "People now need the reassurance and security of knowing there is a policeman just around the corner," he said.

"They want to get back to the old-fashioned idea of bobbies on the beat who they know and respect, community

■ A chief constable is considering a proposal from a crime-hit town which wants to put its own officers on the streets

policemen and women who will take the time to stop and talk to people. Nationally many forces are overstretched and undermanned. We could employ eight or nine officers for about £200,000 a year. That would cost each adult in the town about 40p a week. "The council asked Mr Toward to press ahead and the proposals were sent to Frank Taylor, co. Durham's chief constable. The plan has won the support of Derek Foster, the Labour MP for Bishop Auckland. "Crime is causing great concern and anxiety to the people of Shildon but the only way to tackle it is under a scheme with legal authority, not through vigilante groups," he said.

Shildon, which has a population of 11,530, is plagued by increasing burglaries and car crime and gangs of teenagers who menace elderly people as they walk through the park. Walter Nunn, 73, council lead-

er, said: "Our cars are damaged and stolen, shop windows are smashed at night, we are plagued by burglars and robbers and people are afraid to go out because they are threatened by gangs."

A spokesman for the Police Federation in Durham said: "The council would have to give a long-term commitment so that the officers did not find themselves redundant a year later because the council changed its mind."

Mr Taylor said: "I am formulating a response for the council but no firm offer has been made about providing money. I am always interested in examining any opportunity that would provide more police officers in co. Durham."

In the Sedgefield police district, which takes in the towns of Newton Aycliffe, Spennymoor, Ferryhill and Shildon, crime rose by 7 per cent in the first seven months of this year.



Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, the composer, examines some of the original manuscripts he has donated to the British Library. They include Holst's *Egdon Heath*, Vaughan Williams's *Fifth Symphony*, and his own *Revelation and Fall*.

Winter visitors fly in by the hundred

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BIRD watchers were yesterday converging on Flamborough Head after the arrival of unprecedented numbers of Lapland buntings.

More than 400 of the sparrow-like, seed-eating birds have descended on the Humberside headland, where they are feeding on stubble.

North-easterly winds from Scandinavia may have pushed the birds off course. Their traditional migration is from the northern tundra regions to more southerly and easterly parts of northern Europe.

While Lapland buntings are far from rare, the size of the British invasion has surprised ornithologists. The numbers of *Calidris lapponicus* on and around the head represent the British Isles' average winter total.

John McLoughlin, of North East Birdline, said yesterday: "Small numbers regularly spend their winters around Britain, but these numbers are quite unprecedented in our region and something very unusual seems to be happening."

Tim Melling of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Brighouse office, who has been to see the buntings,

said yesterday: "I looked up and there they were flying overhead. I couldn't believe it. They look dull brown at this time of the year but they do have a chestnut panel on the wings. The call is very distinctive, a stuttering trill which ends in a 'que-que' sound. Once you've heard one you never forget its song."

He said numbers of Lapland buntings appeared to have been increasing on the Yorkshire coast.

Mr Melling linked the phenomenon to the government's set-aside system, in which farmers are paid to take fields out of production.

A rare American visitor, a blackpoll warbler, has been spotted recently at Dane's Dyke on the headland.



Man killed trying to mend 'live' machine

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DIY enthusiast was killed when he tried to fix a washing machine while it was still plugged in.

Keith Hall, 40, was discovered slumped over the machine by his wife after she returned from a shopping trip with her son. He was trying to replace a worn part when the accident happened at his home in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Yesterday an inquest was told how the labourer was discovered unconscious with his arm still inside the washer. His wife, Sandra, ran screaming for help to a neighbour's home but all attempts to revive him failed.

Neighbour Robert Cutting, said: "I ran to her house and found Keith lying on the floor. The side was off the washing machine and his arm was inside. The machine was still plugged into the wall. He was lying on his back unconscious and I tried to resuscitate him, but it was no good."

The Hoppoint washing machine was later inspected and its electrical system was found to be working properly. Edwin Curry of Northern Electric said: "If the machine was plugged in and the back removed a number of live points would have been exposed."

"When the machine is opened like this it can be very dangerous. It does not have to be working to remain live."

James Muir, deputy coroner for Newcastle upon Tyne, recording a verdict of accidental death, said: "Perhaps Mr Hall was unaware of what he was doing."

Bombers injure farmers

A farmer and a cat breeder were treated for minor injuries after letter bomb attacks by animal rights protesters yesterday.

Colin French, 56, who was jailed last year for defying a court order forbidding him to keep animals because of cruelty, opened a package containing a bomb at his farm at Winslow, Buckinghamshire.

Christopher Brown, 53, who has been targeted before by anti-vivisectionists, suffered superficial burns at the farm where he breeds cats at Minister Lovell, Oxfordshire.

Rapist jailed

A teenager raped a pub landlady in front of her 17-year-old son, who was bound and gagged, while two other men ransacked the pub. Lloyd Murray, 18, of Bow, east London, was jailed for ten years at the Old Bailey.

Murder hunt

Police launched a murder hunt after Ida West, 82, died in hospital after she and two friends were mugged in Allerton, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

Robber jailed

Frank Smith, 25, of Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, who shot at a policeman after a village post office robbery, was jailed for 15 years at Reading Crown Court.

Schoolboy dies

David Elwood, 12, who was struck by lightning two weeks ago during a school rugby practice at Crewkerne, Somerset, died yesterday in hospital.

Timely pumpkin is best vegetable buy

BY GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO

PUMPKINS, the traditional Halloween favourite, are the best vegetable buy this week at 60p-£2.50 each depending on size. Other good vegetable buys include onions and carrots at 15p-25p a lb and swede at 15p-30p a lb.

Cucumbers are the best news for this week's salads, the English and Dutch varieties joined by the new season Spain version at 40p-70p each depending on size. Also look out for English and Egyptian spring onions at 30p-50p a bunch.

The best fruit bargain is Spain's satsumas, at 6p-12p each, followed by Italia white seeded grapes at 50p-75p a lb and pears at 30p-65p a lb. Apples are also looking good.

Fish prices are stable, although the unsettled weather may affect supplies of oily and flat fish. Look for whiting at around £1 a lb and codley fillets at £1.30 a lb.

Advertised best buys:

Asda: fresh diced turkey 89p a lb; sliced ham shoulder £1.69 for 454g; Cheddar cheese £1.79 a lb; tea cakes 39p for four.

Co-op: jumbo sausages 99p per lb; Campbell's chicken stew 69p for 392g; whole wheat muesli £1.09 for 750g.

Gateway: breaded plaice fillet

£2.55: family size steak and kidney pie 85p; McVities apple pie 99p for 565g; swede 9p a lb. Harrods: sugared gammon £1.60 per 0.25lb; horse mackerel £1.60 each; white asparagus £6.50 a lb. Iceland: sirloin steaks £4.49 for six; shoulder pork £2.49 for 1lb 4oz; sliced green beans £1.29 for 4lb; Jurassic Park snacks £1.29 for nine. Lambrusco Rosso £1.49. Marks & Spencer: haddock in crumb £3.25 for 800g; chicken casserole £1.95; large cottage pie £1.99; Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon £2.99. Safeway: minced beef £1.05 a lb; boneless pork shoulder 98p a lb; frozen baked cheese cake £1.19 for 400g; pumpkins 19p a lb; best of British beers £9.95 (ten-bottle pack).

Sainsbury: prime rump steak £2.98 per lb; boneless chicken breast £4.49 for 2lb; burger buns 72p for 12; large pineapples 95p each; green cabbage 14p a lb. Tesco: pork stir fry £1.99 per lb; trout steaks £2.99 per lb; garden peas 65p for 2lb; medium pumpkins 49p each; baking potatoes £1.79 for 10lb. Waitrose: pork spare ribs £1.49 per lb; rainbow trout £1.95 per lb; Cox's apples 79p for 1kg; kiwi fruit 15p each.

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سكندرية

THE TIMES WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Short overwhelmed by textbook strategy

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GARRY Kasparov won his second speed chess game against Nigel Short at the Savoy Theatre in London with a textbook example of Sicilian Defence strategy.

Kasparov emerged from the opening with a solid position, counter-attacked fiercely on the queenside to win a pawn and then finally broke Short's resistance with one of those storming attacking combinations for which the world champion is justly famous.

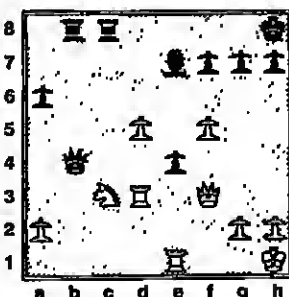
The complications after Kasparov's key move, 34...d5, are mind-boggling, based on a variety of back rank checkmating motifs. Kasparov, nevertheless, calculated the myriad difficult variations in a manner of seconds.

In the key position after 36...e4, if White plays 37 Rxe4 then 37...Qxc3 38 Rxc3 Rb1+ 39 Rcl Rxc1+ 40 Rcl Rxc1+ 41 Qf1 Rxf1 checkmate. A superb finish.

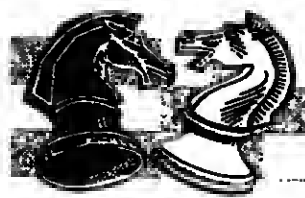
White: Nigel Short
Black: Garry Kasparov
Speed Game (2)

Sicilian Defence

- 1 e4 c5
- 2 Nf3 d6
- 3 d4 cxd4
- 4 Nxd4 Nf6
- 5 Nc3 g6
- 6 Bc4 e6
- 7 Bb3 b5
- 8 Bx7
- 9 Qf3 Qc6
- 10 Bc3 Qb7
- 11 Qg3 b4
- 12 Na4 Nbd7
- 13 R1 Qd8
- 14 Rd1 Rb8
- 15 Rf1 Rb8
- 16 Kh1 Ne5
- 17 Ne2 Qc7
- 18 c3 Bd7
- 19 Nf4 Bxa4
- 20 Bxa4 bxc3
- 21 bxc3 Qxc3
- 22 Qd4 Qd5
- 23 Bb3 Qb5
- 24 Ne2 Rf6
- 25 Ne3 Qe5
- 26 f4 Nf5
- 27 Qe3 Nf6
- 28 Ne2 Nxd4
- 29 Nxd4 Qc3



30 Rf3 Qc5
31 Qf3 Nf6
32 f5 e5



Birt tells MPs that BBC will survive

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE time people spend watching and listening to BBC programmes will shrink by over half from 50 to 24 hours a week by the turn of the century as a result of competition from satellite and cable television channels, John Birt, the corporation's director-general, told MPs yesterday.

Giving evidence to the Commons heritage committee's enquiry into the future of the BBC, Mr Birt roundly rejected the committee's apocalyptic predictions that the BBC would be drowned by a tidal wave of competition from global media groups by the turn of the century and would be lucky to achieve even a 20 per cent audience share. More than 90 per cent of people would still tune in to the BBC, he said, but for shorter periods of time.

Mr Birt assured MPs that the BBC would learn to adapt and coexist with new forms of

competition from multi-media services in the 21st century, in much the same way as newspapers had adapted to the advent of television.

The committee's drastic forecasts of the demise of British broadcasting, voiced earlier by Gerald Kaufman, its chairman, give the clearest sign yet that it might recommend a radical reorganisation of the way the BBC is funded and regulated after the expiry of the corporation's charter in 1996. The committee is preparing a report on the corporation's future, to be published next month.

Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman, urged MPs to renew the BBC's charter for between eight and ten years. It would be wrong to make major changes until the full implications of new technological developments had been fully evaluated.

The committee also made clear yesterday its scepticism



John Birt and his deputy Bob Phillips arriving yesterday to give evidence before the Commons heritage committee

about the suitability of the television licence fee as the main source of funding for the corporation in a future dominated by subscription and pay-as-you-view television.

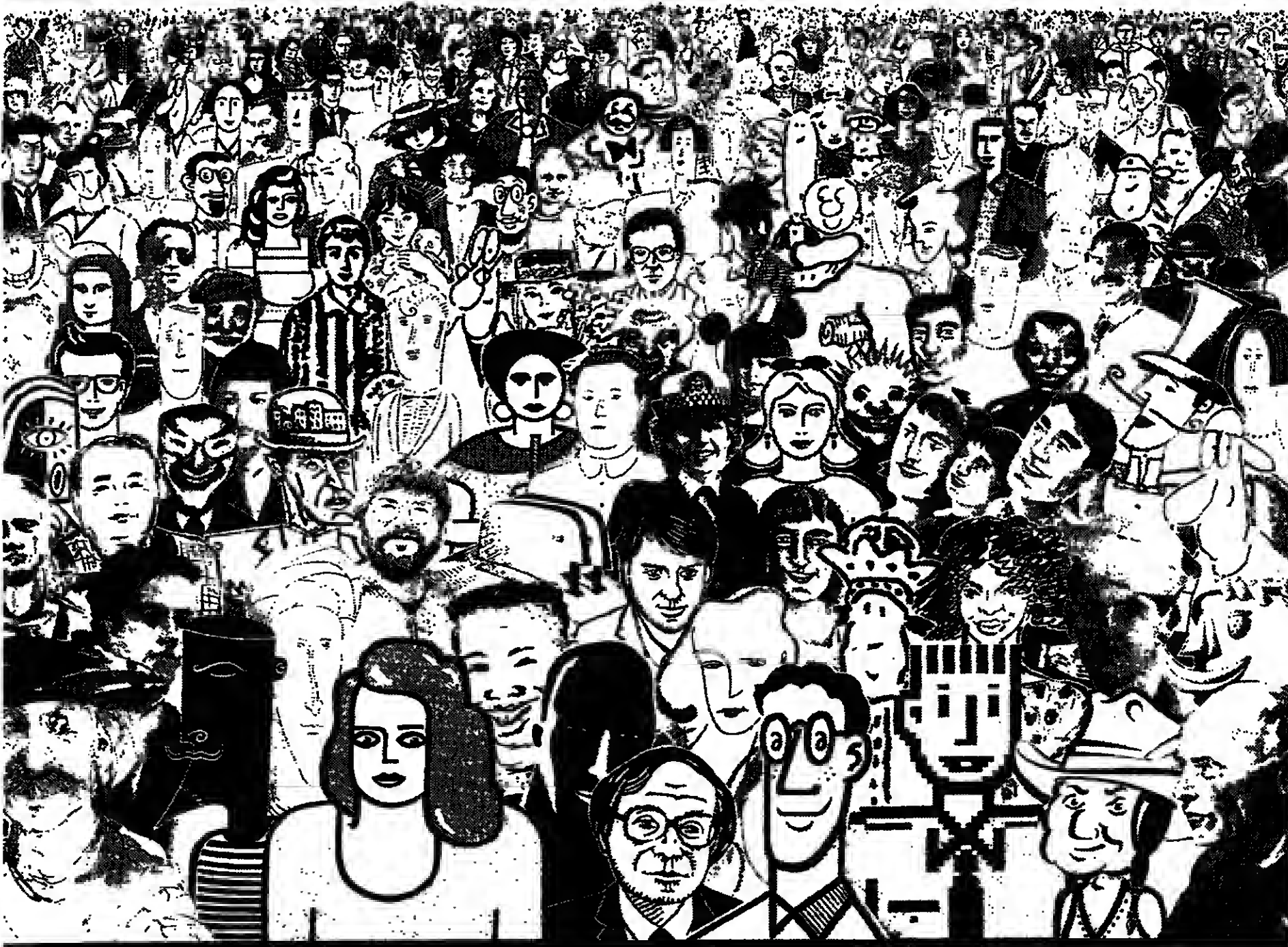
Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire, described the current system, which raises £1.4 billion a year for the BBC, as ramshackle, haphazard and outdated. He pointed out that 7 per cent of people eligible to

pay the levy evaded it, proportionately more than the evasion rate for the poll tax.

Mounting a passionate defence of the licence fee, Mr Birt said the BBC owed its position as Europe's biggest

television and radio production house and as the most powerful broadcasting brand name in the world to the financial independence and security granted by the licence.

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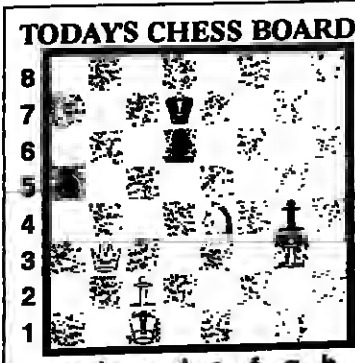
THE TIMES checkmate £1,000 to be won every day

CHECKMATE is the instant cash game that anyone can play — you don't need to be a chess expert. All you have to do is check the positions on your Checkmate Card against those printed on the daily Checkmate Chess Board, marking the pieces off on the Checkmate Table as the positions on your card match those of the Checkmate Board. It's so simple to take part — and perhaps win £1,000.

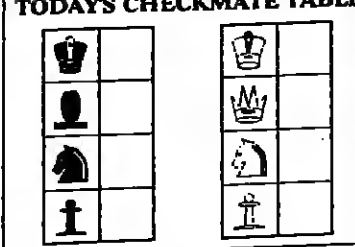
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Compare the positions on your Checkmate Card against those on Today's Chess Board (right). If a combination on your card matches a chess piece on the Checkmate Chess Board mark off that piece in the Checkmate Table. If you are able to mark off all the pieces in the Checkmate Table in any one day, in



TODAY'S CHECKMATE TABLE



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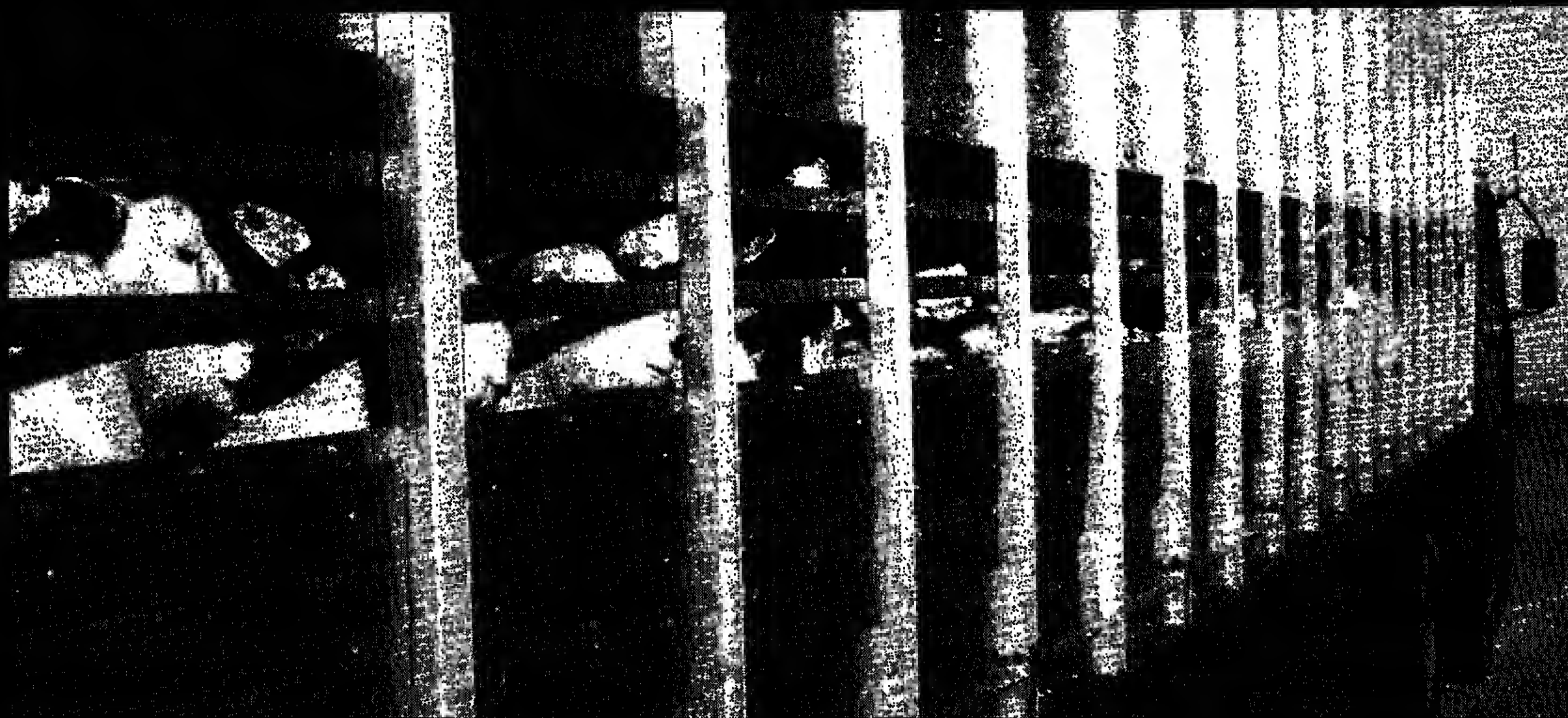
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In the event of more than one valid claim for any prize, that prize will be divided equally among the winners. For General Rules, see the reverse of your Checkmate Card.

□ TODAY'S WINNER will be announced in *The Times* tomorrow. There were no winners yesterday.

Winning Move, page 48
Mephisto
CHESS COMPUTERS

Take one rack of lamb and roast for 47 hours.



8 o'clock on the 24th September. A truck pulls out of Calais ferry port with eight hundred sheep crammed into its trailer.

A few moments later an unmarked RSPCA vehicle begins to follow at a discreet distance.

The truck driver and the RSPCA men are prepared for a long journey, the sheep are not.

They're packed tightly together and piled up in four tiers. As the sun rises so does the interior temperature.

Some of the weaker sheep lose their footing in the crush and are trampled by the others.

But the driver only stops to refresh and relieve himself. (The engine is left running so the cabin is still nicely air conditioned when he returns.)

The sheep are not given food, water or exercise at any point.

Finally the journey ends after 47 hours and 1,781 km in Pianella, Italy.

At the local abattoir the exhausted and dehydrated animals on the lower deck are unloaded.

The presence of the RSPCA men is tolerated until two trampled corpses are discovered.

Then our inspectors are expelled and the gates padlocked before the top decks are opened. We don't know what they found there.

This isn't an isolated incident. Over a million sheep are exported from Britain every year and the RSPCA have trailed some 200 vehicles.

The destinations and the cargoes varied greatly but, tragically, the treatment of the animals did not.

Sheep could be humanely slaughtered near to the farms where they are raised, refrigerated, then transported (a method

favoured by many British farmers).

But then the European meat traders would make a little less money, so the practice continues.

At least until the law is changed.

EC agriculture ministers are about to meet to discuss the current livestock transportation regulations.

The RSPCA want to see an eight hour limit on the transportation of live animals for slaughter enforced throughout the European Community.

Gillian Shephard is our representative at the negotiations and there is still time to let her know your views on the issue of maximum journey time.

Please phone the number below for an information pack and to find out what action to take.

Then perhaps we can persuade Mrs Shephard to look after our sheep.



STOP THE NEEDLESS TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS. PHONE 0500 34 35 36.

مركز الشاهين

Poll shows Major still bouncing along the bottom

Economic confusion hits public confidence

By Peter Riddell

THE public remains worried about the state of the economy and conflicting signals about the strength of recovery.

The latest MORI poll shows that the economic optimism index has declined for the third month running and is at its lowest level since February.

The index measures the number thinking that the general economic position of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months. The index now stands at minus 11 points, compared with minus eight points last month.

The index was positive for four out of the five spring and summer months, but since then the proportion expecting an improvement in the economy has declined from a peak of 35 per cent in July to 24 per cent now.

This confused pattern ties in with the mixed economic data suggesting that the pattern of recovery is uneven. Economic optimism has traditionally been an important influence on voting intentions. The latest figures suggest that it may be some time before any improvement in the economy helps the Tories.

Unemployment remains top of the list of the most important issues facing Britain, according to the latest poll. However, the proportion mentioning it has declined from four-fifths to around three-fifths since the spring, mirroring the drop in the number registered out of work.

The main change this month has been a rise in the number mentioning law and order to a third. It is now ranked second alongside the health service and the economic situation.



Smith: benefited from newspaper headlines

Conference gives sharp boost to Smith's standing

By Peter Riddell

JOHN Smith has emerged as the main beneficiary of this autumn's party conference season. The latest MORI poll for *The Times*, taken last weekend, shows that Mr Smith's personal rating has risen sharply over the past month to its highest level since he became Labour leader 15 months ago.

By contrast, John Major has received no significant boost from his successful party conference speech. His rating touched a record low for any post-war prime minister in the mid-summer and has been bouncing along the bottom since then.

There has been little change in voting intentions in recent months. Since early May, when the Tories suffered a big defeat in the local elections and lost the Christchurch by-election, Labour has remained at around 44 per cent, plus or minus one or two percentage

points: the Tories have been on 28 per cent, plus or minus one point; and the Liberal Democrats have been on 24 per cent, plus or minus one point. The latest rankings are Labour on 45 per cent, the Tories on 29 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 23 per cent.

The last period when the parties' ratings were similarly becalmed was in 1984, also a year after an election, and before that for six months in the spring and summer of 1981, when the Tories were also unpopular and before the newly formed SDP began to take off.

The striking feature of this month's poll is that the Labour conference has helped to boost Mr Smith's rating rather than his party's standing. The proportion of the public saying they are satisfied with the job he is doing as Labour leader has risen from 34 to 41 per cent over the past month. The number saying they are dis-

satisfied has fallen from 38 to 34 per cent. Mr Smith's rating with Labour supporters has also improved sharply and is now favourable by a three-to-one margin. Mr Smith has benefited from the headlines proclaiming "Smith wins" after his victory in the conference vote over party democracy and relations with the trade unions.

In previous months, Mr Smith's rating has been negative, with more dissatisfied than satisfied, and has been lower than Neil Kinnock's at a similar stage of his leadership in 1983-4. But Mr Smith has now moved ahead of his predecessor.

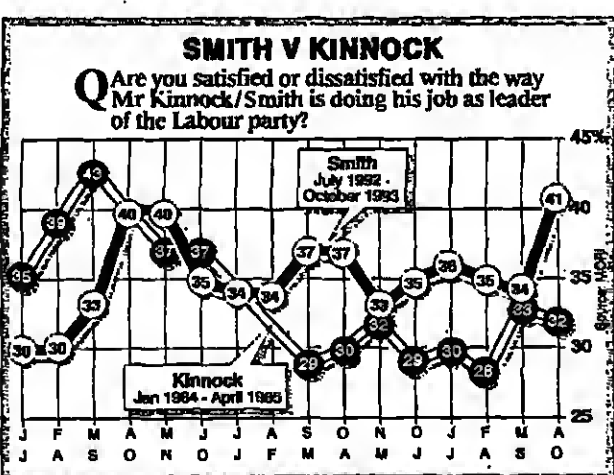
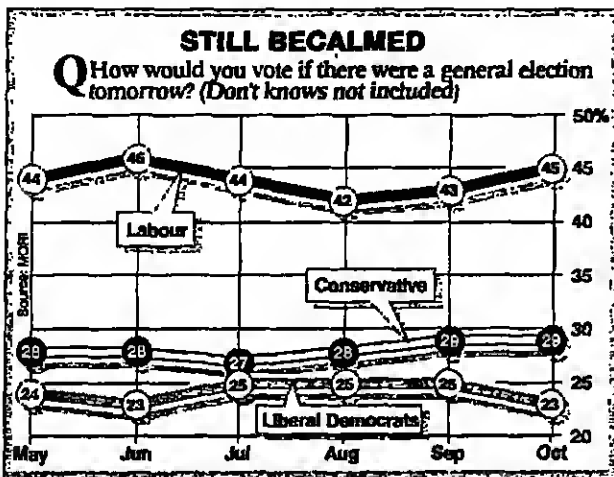
By contrast, the Tory conference has done little for Mr Major's standing. After touching a low of 19 per cent in June and July, his satisfaction rating is now 23 per cent and, among Tory supporters, 55 per cent, against 47 per cent three months ago. But among the public as a whole his rating remains negative with 69 per cent still dissatisfied with his performance as prime minister.

There has been no shift in attitudes towards the government as a whole. Only one in ten is satisfied with the way the government is running the country, with more than four-fifths dissatisfied, no change on a month ago. Even among Tory supporters, only a third are satisfied with nearly three-fifths dissatisfied.

After their electoral successes during the summer, the Liberal Democrats have not made further gains in the autumn. Their party conference has apparently made little impact. Paddy Ashdown's own rating has slipped back slightly from its high levels of earlier in the year, although more of his own party supporters are satisfied with his performance than other party supporters are with their leader.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,795 adults at 143 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on October 21 to 25. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or refuse to name a party (2 per cent).

© MORI/The Times



New jail building a gamble

By John Lewis

CONTRACTORS who build and run Britain's new prisons will have to gamble on the crime rate remaining high.

Peter Lloyd, the prisons minister, spoke out the new risk that contractors will be expected to take at a Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors conference in London on joint public-private finance.

The government has already made it clear that it will expect the bidders for two new prisons, planned for Liverpool and Bridgend, to design, build, manage and finance the buildings. Tenders are to be invited in February.

However, Mr Lloyd told startled developers that the requirements for another four prisons, foreshadowed by Michael Howard, the home secretary, at the Conservative party conference earlier this month, and new secure training centres for young offenders aged 12 to 14, will be wider still.

Under its new policy of bringing in private finance, the Home Office will decide the region in which the prisons are to be built, but little else. Companies will be expected to find the site, apply for outline planning permission, design, build, finance and take into account the likely occupancy of the buildings.

Developers will have to calculate the risk of crime dipping or a change of government or home secretary which produces shorter sentences. Potential contractors will also have to choose sites close to population centres, so that wives and relatives can visit prisons.

Mr Lloyd explained that the Home Office was no longer buying prisons, but "custodial services". It would not be specifying the thickness of walls, the level of lighting or the kitchen space. Instead ministers would say what was wanted in general terms.

Dublin plan raises hopes of Ulster peace initiative

By Philip Webster and Nicholas Watt in Belfast

JOHN Major and Albert Reynolds will today attempt to bring hope to Northern Ireland by keeping alive the prospect of a peaceful settlement involving the two governments and the constitutional parties.

The British and Irish prime ministers will meet in Brussels in a new spirit of conciliation after a warm and positive welcome from Mr Major yesterday to a new six-point "peace plan" put forward by the Irish government.

Downing Street heralded elements of the proposals, spelt out by Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, during an emergency debate in the Dail, particularly the Irish government's acknowledgment that there should be no change in the status of Ulster without the freely expressed consent of the majority of the people there. Mr Major told the Commons he had read the speech with "very great interest" and that he was looking forward to discussing it today.

There was an equally enthusiastic response by government officials to its acceptance that the Unionists should be free to withhold their consent until persuaded to do so "by democratic means".

Senior Tories said that even more significant was Mr Spring's signal that change was possible in articles 2 and 3

of the Irish constitution under which it lays claim to Northern Ireland. Mr Spring said: "If we believe in consent as an integral part of any democratic approach to peace, we must be prepared at the right time and in the right circumstances to express our commitment to that consent in our fundamental law."

He also hinted that eventually paramilitaries might find a place at the table if they renounced violence. "We will make a place and... bring in from the cold those who have lived in the shadow of their own terrorism - and we are prepared to begin that process the moment that a total cessation of violence makes it possible for us to do so."

The Irish proposals almost



Reynolds seeing Major at EC summit today

certainly contain elements of plans put forward to Dublin, but not officially seen by London, by John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president. But ministers clearly view the Irish plan as a convenient means of putting the Hume-Adams initiative to one side. Downing Street again made it plain the government would not talk to Mr Adams.

Mr Major's initial reaction to the Irish proposals was that they disclosed a substantial degree of common ground between London and Dublin. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said the proposals were a "mish-mash" with nothing new.

The proposals came as Belfast Catholic families buried three victims of the week's sectarian violence. Hundreds turned out in west Belfast for the joint funeral of Jim Cameron, 58, and Mark Rodgers, 28, the Catholic council workmen who were killed by loyalist gunmen on Tuesday morning. Father Aidan Kerr told mourners that Mr Cameron's widow, Margaret, had tended to victims of Sunday's IRA bomb in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital three days before her husband was murdered.

Peter Brookes, page 20

Welsh call for independence

WELSH nationalists yesterday launched their campaign to put independence back on the political agenda with a new blueprint for constitutional change. Delegates to Plaid Cymru's conference in Cardiff will draw up a two-stage plan for a Welsh parliament, with the ultimate goal of full self-government.

Dafydd Wigley, the party president, said disillusionment with the Westminster system had created a new climate for change. "All parties, apart from the Tories, accept that an elected Welsh assembly or parliament is now more likely than ever before."

"Our exciting plans would take this parliament further after five years or so, moving Wales towards full self-gov-

ernment with power to tackle our deep-seated problems like employment, housing and education, which Westminster is so obviously failing to do."

Mr Wigley said that the recent management problems of the Welsh Development Agency "super-quango" highlighted the need for greater accountability to the public.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Ministers fight church reform

Two ministers will lead the attack on plans to allow the ordination of women priests, warning MPs of a schism that will split the Church of England in future years.

John Gummer, environment secretary, and Ann Widdecombe, the social security minister, will take the rare step of speaking from the back benches in the Commons debate on the issue. Miss Widdecombe, who left the church over women's ordination, will be joined by Mr Gummer, who has threatened to leave the church. Although Parliament cannot overturn the Church's recommendations, it is expected to support the proposals.

ID card backed

John Major confirmed in the Commons that he favours the issuing of identity cards to counter social security benefit fraud. Speaking during prime minister's questions, he said he shared with others the desire to stop fraud, and Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, was "looking at a whole range of options".

Break for MPs

The present parliamentary session, which started in May last year, will be brought to an end next Friday when Parliament is prorogued. The Queen will open the new session on Thursday, November 18.

In Parliament

Commons (9.30): Motion on the ordination of women.

Next week

The main business in Westminster next week is expected to be: House of Commons: Monday and Tuesday: Railways bill, Lords amendments; Wednesday: Timetable motion on the Cardiff Bay barrage bill and Lords amendments; Thursday: Motions on parliamentary pensions and motion on financial assistance to political parties; Friday: Prorogation. House of Lords: Tuesday: Motion on the ordination of women; Wednesday: Railways bill, Lords amendments; Thursday: European economic area bill, Commons amendments; Friday: Prorogation.



Clare Short dons protective gear to give John Gummer a lesson on the environment

Labour woos a green generation

By Alice Thomson

THE Labour MPs Clare Short and Chris Smith struggled into gas masks and contamination suits yesterday to launch Earth 2000, Labour's new environment initiative.

In an attempt to become the party of the environment and appeal to youth, Labour is to consult young people to find out how they would alter green policy.

Chris Smith, the shadow environment secretary, said: "In any school young people know more about the environment than 90 per cent of adults and probably a lot more than John Gummer, the environment secretary."

He said Labour would have extensive consultations with children and students around the country. Questionnaires would be sent out and the feedback would influence any future environmental policy.

Addressing an audience of under-25s, Ann Taylor, the shadow education secretary, said: "I am talking to the Blue Peter generation who are all too aware of environmental problems. This generation is going to have to change our goals if they are going to survive in the next generation."

She attacked the Conservative party for "barking back to Victorian values in

education" when modern subjects like the environment should be one of their top priorities.

Bill Eyles, 25, co-ordinator of Grassroots, the Young Labour green network, criticised John Smith, the Labour leader, saying he had lost any "green rise" in his speeches. He said that the young were disillusioned by politicians who did not live up to their promises.

Urging shadow ministers to use Earth 2000 to set out a strong environmental agenda, he said they should take up the environmental mantle from the green pretence of the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown.



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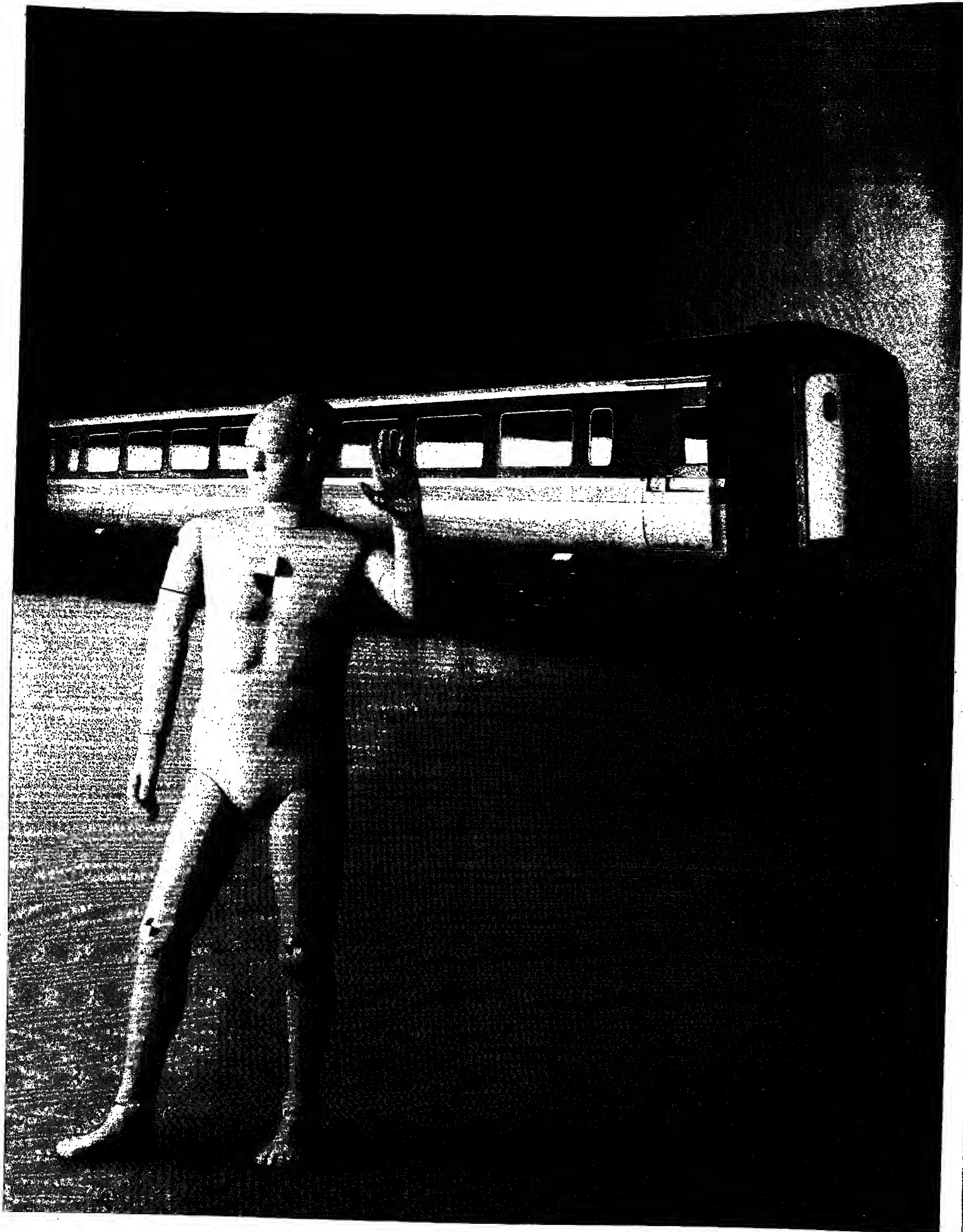
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Sitting behind a steering wheel (and a 2 mile tailback) is out of the question too. (Sorry, but we'll just have to chauffeur you all the way.)

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Greeks renew British child hunt after arrest of gang

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

THE discovery of a gang selling children in Greece has raised hopes that the two-year mystery surrounding Ben Needham, the missing Sheffield toddler, is closer to being solved.

Following the arrest of four people in Athens allegedly involved in the sale of gypsy babies, Greek security police have launched a nationwide investigation and have promised to extend the scope of the inquiry to include the case. Ben, who would be four years old today, vanished in July 1991 while playing outside a house his grandfather was helping to restore on the Aegean island of Kos.

Eddie Needham, Ben's grandfather, who has spent the past week on the neighbouring island of Rhodes, checking sightings of blond boys resembling Ben, said: "Now these people have been arrested, I just hope the big people at the top don't escape. They must be made to tell us if Ben has gone through their organisation, where he has gone. It is the most realistic thing that could have happened to Ben — to be stolen, to be sold for lots of money."

In addition to the two cou-

ples in custody in Athens' Korydallos prison, 13 other people, including a doctor, a lawyer and a social worker, are to face questioning over their involvement in the sale of at least 11 babies to childless couples.

The sale of children has long



Ben: vanished more than two years ago

been the stuff of legend in Greece, although unproven until now. The security police believe they have uncovered a part of what may be a large nationwide network serving couples wishing to bypass adoption procedures. The nationwide investigation, laun-

ched following the four arrests earlier this month, had until now concentrated on gypsies selling their own babies for up to £10,000.

Detectives, speaking on condition of anonymity, agreed yesterday that it was feasible that they could also be trading in stolen children, and a senior official of the security police said that the scope of the enquiry would be widened to include Ben's case.

Hopes of an early breakthrough could, however, be thwarted by the strict rules governing prosecutions in Greece, which, seen from a British perspective, appear bureaucratic and petty. The police are no longer able to question the four suspects, nor can they suggest lines of enquiry to Efthymios Kataliakos, the investigating magistrate.

Mr Kataliakos said that he had no knowledge of Ben's disappearance, and would not extend his line of questioning unless instructed to do so by the public prosecutor. But he said he might listen to requests from the British authorities, if they went through the correct channels.

The Needhams believe the

hunt for Ben has been hampered by police incompetence, and lack of interest by British diplomats. When the boy vanished, aged 21 months, police failed to carry out a full search of Kos, and the embassy in Athens did not send any consular official.

Doug McKellar, the consul in Athens, said yesterday: "We will make a formal approach through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that they include the disappearance of Ben Needham in the current enquiry into the sale of children."

At the end of an emotionally crippling week, unsuccessfully chasing up improbable leads in Rhodes, Ben's grandmother Christine said: "Now they have this lead, they can't argue they don't know which way to go. They must try and help us. We implore them to end our suffering."

Ben's parents, especially his mother, Kerry, who is pregnant with her second child, have never stopped believing they will find him alive. Their only realistic hopes of identifying him now rest with a birthmark on his thigh, and a strawberry-coloured stain beneath the hair on the back of his head.



Christine and Eddie Needham, grandparents of the Sheffield toddler, on the island of Rhodes where they have investigated sightings of blond children

Bribe trial begins in Milan

By JOHN PHILLIPS

THE first big trial arising from the Italian corruption scandal opened in Milan yesterday as Sergio Cusani, a financier, was accused of organising the biggest bribe paid to political parties in the tangentiopoli (bribe city) affair.

Signor Cusani, a confidant of Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist prime minister, has threatened to make dramatic revelations about politicians allegedly involved in the payment of 150 billion lire (£60 million) by the Ferruzzi chemical group, Italy's second-biggest private company, over Enimont. This was an ill-starred joint venture between Ferruzzi's holding company, Montedison, and the state-run energy concern ENI.

If Enimont was the mother of all bribes, this is going to be the father of all corruption trials, said Antonio Di Pietro, the Milan magistrate who has become a national hero by spearheading the "Clean Hands" enquiry.

Signor Cusani, 43, is defended by Sergio Spazzali, a radical lawyer whose mentor is Jacques Vergès, the French barrister who defended Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief in Lyons.

Protests in armed forces reflect malaise in Italy

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

DISCONTENT in the Italian armed forces has boiled over with hundreds of thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen refusing to eat meals and confining themselves to barracks in protest at a government freeze on pay increases.

The "strike" was organised by the armed forces' representative body, Cocer (army consultative committee), which is demanding full trade union status. The carabinieri paramilitary police refused to participate but Cocer leaders claimed 100 per cent support from NCOs and men in central military districts and 70 per cent support from officers. "About 300,000 people in arms from the navy, air force

experts pour scorn on media speculation at the chances of an army coup.

Public opinion, however, is increasingly concerned that the crisis in Italian society reflected in corruption scandals and the rise of the devolutionist Lombardy League, is spreading to the army and national service — institutions that played a great part in forging Italian national unity in the past by bringing together conscripts from different regions.

General Canino quit in protest at the dismissal by Fabbio Fabbri, the defence minister, of General Biagio Rizzo, the commander of the Emilia-Romagna region, who in turn was accused of being lax with General Franco Monticone, the former commander of Italy's Rapid Intervention Force.

Signor Fabbri, a Socialist, suspended General Monticone after a former mistress of the army officer alleged he was plotting a right-wing coup. General Canino hit headlines earlier this year when he said he regarded any soldier who supported the Lombardy League as a traitor.

Commentators noted that General Bonifazio Incisa di Camerana, the new chief-of-staff, had not attended a Western European Union war game, Ardent 93, which began in Tuscany on Monday with French, Spanish, German and British troops. Corriere della Sera suggested this was to avoid contact with elite Italian troops in the exercise who appear disgruntled about the departure of the Generals Canino and Monticone.

Rome: About 150 jobless people hurled eggs, potatoes, milk, cartons and coins at the CGIL, Italy's biggest union, yesterday during a half-day general strike called in protest at government economic policies and rising unemployment. He was addressing a crowd of 60,000 in Naples, one of the cities worst affected by lack of jobs. (Reuters)

and army refused their rations," La Stampa estimated. La Repubblica called the agitation "a fast in the barracks against [prime minister Carlo Azeglio] Ciampi".

The agitation reflects a growing malaise within the armed forces which last week led to the resignation of General Goffredo Canino, the army chief-of-staff. Military

Dutch track down looted drawings

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN AMSTERDAM

FIRST the Nazis looted them from the Dutch, then the Red Army took them from the Nazis, and now the Dutch have found them again. But getting back the treasure trove of 306 Old Master drawings is something else.

The drawings found in the cellars of the Pushkin museum in Moscow have been identified as the bulk of the Koenigs Collection, worth millions and missing since 1945. A team of experts sent to Moscow by the Dutch government returned this week from authenticating the drawings and reported them in excellent condition.

"This visit was purely an art history exercise: the return of the paintings was not on the agenda," Marie de Zwaan, a team member.

A joint Dutch-Russian working group on the collection agreed to organise a Dutch exhibition of the works and will meet next month in The Netherlands to discuss whether the drawings will be returned to Dutch control. None of

the works has been on public display since they were taken by the Nazis.

The Boymans van Beuningen museum in Rotterdam, which was forced to hand the drawings to the Nazis, wants to be the first to show them again. The collection includes a Rubens drawing of his wife Hélène Fourment, and "The Lion" by Rembrandt.

Other artists include Correggio, Titian, Van Dyck, Dürer and Holbein. But despite the reappearance of the collection, 184 of the 490 drawings originally taken by the Nazis are still missing.

For decades the Dutch government has been demanding the return of the drawings, which were believed to be in Soviet hands since the end of the second world war. But it was only last year that the Russian government finally admitted to having the collection, assembled by Franz Koenigs, a German-born Dutch industrialist, during the 1930s.

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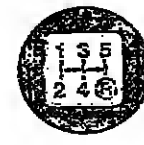
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Clashes over spending will mark Maastricht treaty celebrations

Major vows to stop Delors jobs plan

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major arrived in Brussels last night determined to block an ambitious programme by Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, to revive the European economy with a substantial programme of infrastructure spending.

In what threatens to be a serious clash at today's special summit, called to celebrate the ratification of the Maastricht treaty, Mr Major is preparing to argue that the Delors blueprint will make Europe less, rather than more, competitive. M. Delors's plan is regarded as naive by Britain. Mr Major, backed by other leaders, will argue that it should be sent to the Community's finance ministers (Ecofin) for further detailed work. One British official said: "Perhaps they will be able to make some sense of it."

The move will anger M. Delors, who hoped that his paper, which sets a target of creating 20 million new jobs before the end of the decade, would go straight to December's twice-yearly summit of the Community.

At what the leading players clearly hope will be a low-key affair, Mr Major is also prepared for a confrontation with President Mitterrand of France and Helmut Kohl, the

German chancellor, over the long-delayed world trade talks and attempts to speed the pace of European union. Britain is on its guard for a French ambush designed to reopen the question of agricultural subsidies and tariffs dealt with under the so-called Blair House accord between the EC and the United States.

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks have been kept off today's agenda as a formal item in order to avoid any interference with the European Commission's negotiating remit of reaching a deal by the final deadline of December 15. But there are fears in Whitehall that M. Mitterrand may attempt to insert references in the final communiqué designed to frustrate the deadline.

The regular summit in Brussels early in December is already being portrayed as a "crunch" meeting for the GATT talks. The British government is also braced for a move from France, Germany and the Belgian presidency today to reconfirm the timetable for economic and monetary union and the introduction of a single currency in 1999.

Mr Major has already said that he hopes they "will resist the temptation to recite the

mantra of full economic and monetary union as if nothing had changed". If they did, it would have all the "quaintness of a rain dance and about the same potency", he said. Yesterday his officials said the present timetable was "daft" and Mr Major told the Commons he would repeat his message as appropriate.

The summit could decide the location of the European Monetary Institute, the embryonic central bank, and other institutions envisaged by Maastricht. Germany is the odds-on favourite to win the site for the bank, probably at Frankfurt, in spite of British reservations. Mr Major is pushing for Britain to get one of the largest institutions on offer, the European Medicine Evaluation Agency, a testing unit for new drugs.

□ **Strike plan:** Belgian civil servants are planning a general strike today to protest against government economic austerity plans. The Socialist public sector union CGSP estimated that 40,000 demonstrators would turn out in the streets of central Brussels, adding to the traffic chaos expected from a lack of public transport. (AFP)

George Brock, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Delors: ambitious blueprint to create 20 million jobs by end of the decade

Kinkel sidelined in row over who calls the shots

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

Germany's foreign policymakers seem to be engaged in an elaborate game of ping-pong, battling issues such as Gatt, Iran, Somalia and Nato from one side of the table to another. The domestic wrangling over who controls foreign affairs does little to encourage the idea that Europe will meet its Maastricht commitment to help to forge a common external policy.

"I am the one who makes foreign policy here," barked Klaus Kinkel the other day. When a foreign minister has made such a statement, he is clearly not completely in command. Herr Kinkel is also the chairman of the Free Democrats, the small struggling partner in the Christian Democrat-led government of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor.

The fact that European elections next summer precede national elections in October ensures that foreign policy will be an issue for German voters. Herr Kinkel is being sidelined on almost every important matter.

Herr Kohl is determined to keep the Franco-German relationship firmly in his hands, but is constantly wrong-footing Herr Kinkel. When Herr Kohl told France that Germany, too, had "problems" with the Blair House farming accord, Herr Kinkel was left to mop up the mess. Was Bonn ready, asked its neighbours, to put the Franco-German relationship above a speedy Gatt deal? Herr Kinkel swore loyalty to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade but his credibility had been hurt.

Bernd Schmidbauer, the

chancellor's intelligence co-ordinator, recently met the head of the Iranian secret service. Apparently the foreign ministry was not fully briefed. America and Britain were furious and demanded an explanation from Herr Kinkel, who knew next to nothing about the talks.

Volker Rühe, the Christian Democratic defence minister, announced a concrete withdrawal date for German soldiers stationed in Somalia. Herr Kinkel publicly said that the defence minister was out of order.

Herr Rühe struck again when he pushed hard for an early acceptance of Central European states in the Nato alliance. Herr Kinkel was more cautious, leaving Herr Rühe with egg on his face at this month's Nato summit.

The muddle is partly of Herr Kinkel's own making. It is becoming virtually impossible to combine the functions of foreign minister and party chief. In an effort to match Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his predecessor, he has spent most of his first year in office in planes. But times have changed since Herr Genscher managed the ministry: too many foreign relationships have to be redefined, or at least carefully nursed.

The day-to-day running of the ministry is almost entirely in the hands of one of his deputies, Dieter Kastrup, the state secretary. As soon as a foreign policy issue enters the domestic political domain Herr Kinkel has to jump in with his table-tennis bat. He misses the ball all too frequently.

Regions angered by British nominee list

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

THE government was thrown into unexpected controversy yesterday when it unveiled its list of 24 local councillors chosen to represent Britain in a new European Community institution, set up under the Maastricht treaty to give greater regional representation in Brussels.

The so-called Committee of the Regions (CoR) is seen, in theory, as a vital step towards "filling the democratic deficit". However, British local authorities immediately complained that the list of nominees, who have still to be confirmed by the council of ministers, is too strongly weighted in favour of the Conservatives and misses out some regions.

Jeremy Beecham, chairman of the Association of Metropol-

itan Authorities, said: "The regional imbalance is very worrying at the outset of this new committee. Ministers do not seem to understand that the CoR has been created to give the various regions of Britain and other EC countries a voice in Brussels."

The committee, however, will have only advisory status and therefore its opinions could be ignored by EC legislators. Susanne Tiemann, president of the EC's economic and social committee, last week called on EC heads of government at today's summit to "ensure that adequate resources are found to cement the implementation of all the provisions of the treaty so as to restore the confidence of European citizens in the Community's future".

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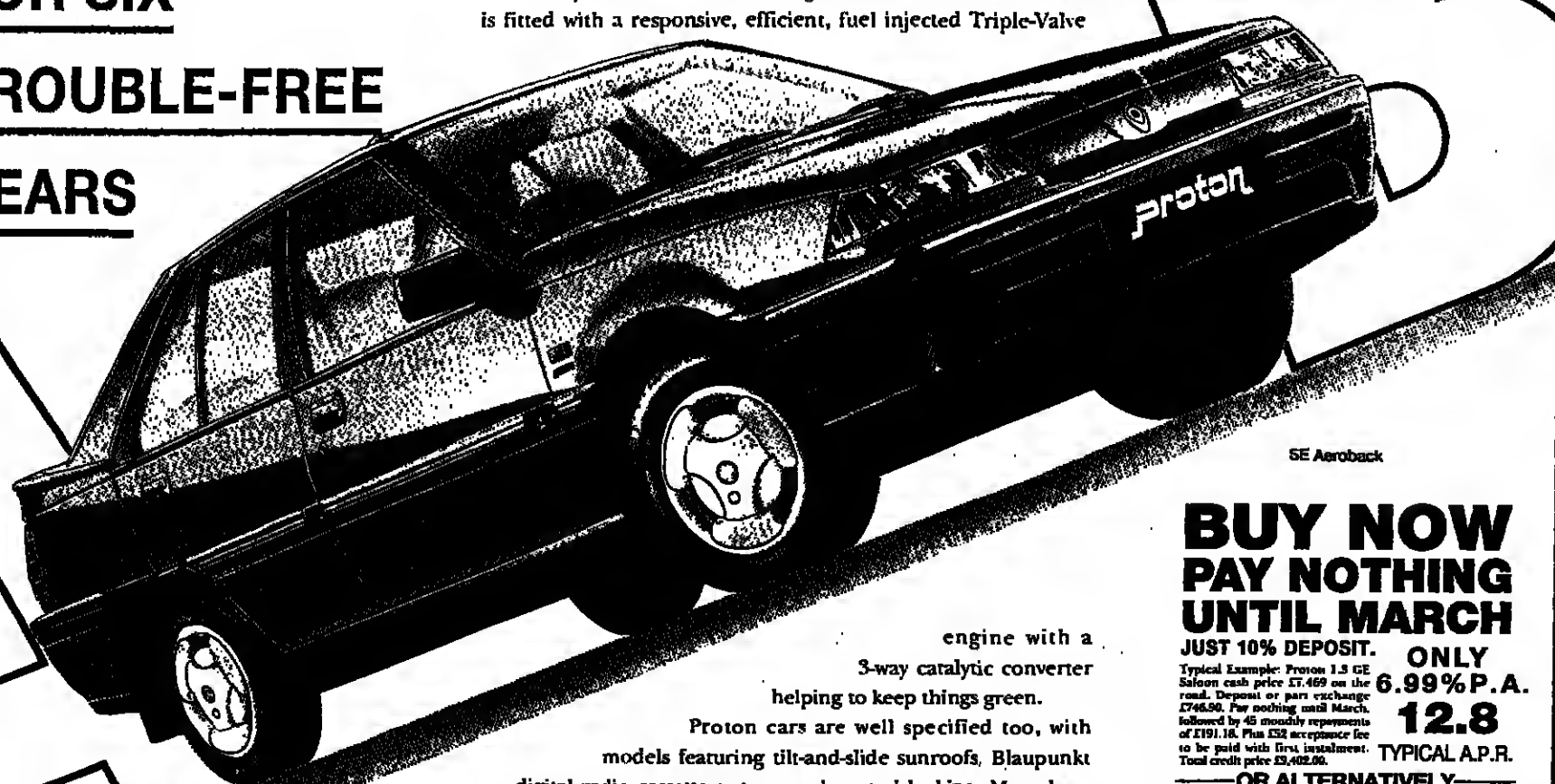
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مكتبة الأمل

Clinton pledges help for wildfire disaster zone

California is burning, millionaires are fleeing and the president, with an eye on his re-election, has speeded federal aid

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday declared much of southern California a major disaster area as up to 16 wildfires continued to cause devastation, grief and terror from north of Los Angeles to the Mexican border.

The day brought a temporary easing of the hot desert winds that had spread the flames faster than a man could run, offering a little respite to the state's overwhelmed fire services. But the fires remained so widespread that the smoke was visible to astronauts 172 miles overhead in the space shuttle Columbia.

The fires, a few started by arsonists, had by midday charred nearly 100,000 acres of parched hills and canyons, destroyed between 500 and 600 homes and forced at least 30,000 people to flee for their lives. Damage was estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars. Los Angeles was covered in a smoky pall that rained ash like snow.

The fires were the worst since those that destroyed 3,000 homes, killed 25 people and caused \$1.7 billion (£1.14 billion) of damage in Oakland, California, in 1991. These covered a far wider area but miraculously there were no reported deaths, al-

though at least 27 firemen were injured, two of them critically, and there were some narrow escapes. In one instance, two fire engines had to be abandoned in the middle of a blaze. In another, a group of policemen escaped only after a helicopter dropped hundreds of gallons of orange fire-retardant.

Two hundred fire engines were sent from northern California, a fleet of helicopters dropped water from the Pacific on endangered homes, and water tankers filled up from swimming pools as mains water pressure in some areas disappeared. But the flames, fanned by the infamous Santa Ana winds of up to 60 mph, had jumped across highways and travelled so quickly on Wednesday that an estimated 6,500 firefighters could do little to contain them. Another 1,600 reinforcements were arriving yesterday. Schools, hospitals and nursing homes were closed, and the flames chased deer, rabbits and other wild animals onto roads.

Worst hit was the exclusive seaside town of Laguna Beach, 40 miles south of Los Angeles, where more than 300 homes, including numerous million-dollar mansions, were destroyed and half the town's



Greg Lindstrom hosing the roof of his million-dollar home as flames whipped by 60 mph winds swept through Laguna Beach yesterday

24,000 residents fled. Even the fire service's command post in the town was burnt down. A tramp was arrested after his campfire set off a blaze that destroyed 150 homes in Altadena, an affluent suburb

north of Los Angeles. The authorities suspect arson in at least four of the fires. California is vital to Mr Clinton's re-election chances, and the president moved with rare speed yesterday to offer "all

appropriate federal resources and assistance" to the state.

He called the scenes of destruction heart-rending. He sent senior federal emergency officials and Bruce Babbitt, the interior secretary, to the

state and might go there himself. "My heart goes out to the people across southern California who have lost their homes, their possessions, and have witnessed private property and the natural environ-

ment devastated by these terrible fires. We are going to do whatever it takes to help the people." Pete Wilson, the state governor, toured the area by helicopter and declared a state of emergency in five counties.

CIA awards medal to top British scientist

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Central Intelligence Agency, rolling back its curtain of secrecy, has conferred a unique honour on R.V. Jones, a key figure in Britain's scientific intelligence during and after the second world war.

The occasion reignited debate over whether Professor Jones has been sufficiently recognised in Britain. A speaker at the CIA ceremony, Doyle Larson, a retired US air force major general, said he hoped the award would provoke John Major into bestowing a similarly high-ranking order.

Professor Jones, 82, became the first recipient of a CIA medal named after him, the R.V. Jones Intelligence Award. It is also the first time the spy agency has created an award bearing the name of a non-American. The medal was the idea of James Woolsey, the CIA director, who said that its future recipients would personify Professor Jones's scientific acumen in the cause of intelligence.

Professor Jones received a standing ovation at the CIA's headquarters on the outskirts of Washington. General Larson said that precision bombing at the start of the Gulf war was the direct result of Professor Jones's teachings. "I think Reg Jones deserves considerable credit for a stunning victory and I salute him," he said.

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Democrats face tax rise verdict

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

EXACTLY a year after President Clinton won the election by promising economic revival, America will next week hold its first real referendum on his performance.

The occasion is the New Jersey governor's election, and the battle lines could not be starker. They offer a straight choice between pure Clintonomics — deficit-reducing tax increases — and undiluted Reaganomics, the Republicans' supply-side tax cuts of the 1980s.

Jim Florio, the Democratic incumbent, levied record tax increases within months of taking office in 1989, just as Mr Clinton did this year, Christine Whitman, the Re-

publican challenger, is staking all on her promise of a 30 per cent tax cut.

For added spice, Mr Florio's campaign is being orchestrated by James Carville, President Clinton's campaign manager. Running Mrs Whitman's is Ed Rollins, creator of the "Morning in America" theme that led to President Reagan's re-election in 1984.

New Jersey is a miniature America, a jumble of affluent suburbs and troubled cities and diverse ethnic groups. It is considered a reliable barometer of the public mood, and the result will greatly influence national politics in the run-up to next year's congressional elections.

A Florio victory would be seen as proof of a sea-change in the public mood, a sign that politicians can at last raise taxes without being consigned to electoral oblivion. A Whitman victory would thrill Republicans by showing that the anti-tax passion that gave them three successive presidential victories before last year can be rekindled.

The good news for Mr Clinton is that Mr Florio is narrowly ahead in the polls, an astonishing comeback by a man who raised taxes by \$2.8 billion (£1.84 billion) to balance the budget in virtually his first act as governor.



Carville: back again on the campaigning trail

Aristide says coup leader must go

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

HAITI'S ousted president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said yesterday he would not return to his country until the military commander who toppled him resigned and he called for a complete economic blockade to force his opponent out of power.

Mr Aristide said General Raoul Cedras must resign as

commander of the Haitian military before he returns to take up his post as president of Haiti, as he was meant to do tomorrow under a peace accord brokered by the United Nations.

Earlier, Mr Aristide had told the General Assembly that, if General Cedras and other key members of the military stood down today, he would immediately call on parliament to vote on new laws granting amnesty and splitting the army from the police. But he said that, if General Cedras and his allies clung to power, the UN should impose a "total and complete blockade". He also asked his government, led by Robert Malval, not to resign tomorrow if he did not return to Haiti on schedule.

In a 25-minute speech he vowed to return to Haiti and offered some conciliatory words for his more moderate opponents. "It is not a matter of choosing to return or not to return," he said. "October 30 is a choice between departure and lateness."

He thanked President Clinton, who said yesterday that Washington was exploring ways to tighten the screws on the Haitian military. Mr Aristide said he believed that concerted international pressure would pay off. "If there is a total blockade, I am convinced the military will not be able to hold out," he said.

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Montenegro church aims to throw off Belgrade's yoke

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO

SERBIA and Montenegro, all that remain of what used to be Yugoslavia, face a potentially violent dispute this weekend in their fraying relations.

A growing force of Montenegrin separatists are to choose a rebel church leader for the republic in a move calculated to enrage the Serbian government in Belgrade. The selection of an autonomous Montenegrin patriarch is doubly offensive to the Serbian Orthodox Church because it is holding its own synod this weekend.

Both meetings are to be held in the historic former Montenegrin capital, Cetinje, and will be a focus for discontent among the increasing number of Montenegrins who want to distance themselves from the authorities in the Serb capital.

The Serbian Orthodox Church is the official church in Montenegro, but it is widely regarded as a powerful funder of Serbian nationalism and a strong supporter of President Milosevic's dream of a greater Serbia. The Montenegrin branch of the church was outlawed in 1922, but moves to resurrect it have intensified recently.

The selection of an autonomous Montenegrin patriarch is expected to draw a crowd of

12,000 and mark a new low point in relations between the two republics of the rump Yugoslavia. There is only one nominee for rebel patriarch, Antonije Abramovic, 74, a Montenegrin who has been living in Canada for more than 40 years. He arrived in Cetinje for Sunday's ceremony a few days ago. The Serbian church's leader in Montenegro



gro, Bishop Amfilohije Radovic, is widely held in Cetinje and Belgrade to be an extreme nationalist.

Even Montenegrins with old feelings of kinship with Serbia now resent what they see as attempts by the Serbian church and the Belgrade authorities to rob Montenegro of its national pride. All Orthodox children baptised in Montenegro must have their na-

tionalities logged as Serb on their baptismal certificates. One mother whose child was baptised two weeks ago was appalled when the priest delivered an impromptu headline speech at the end of the ceremony, acclaiming the rising tide of a greater Serbia stretching from Greece to the Adriatic.

Many Montenegrins feel that they are unfairly suffering the hardship of sanctions that have been imposed mainly because of Serbia's role in the war in Bosnia. Some Montenegrin troops have been blamed for war atrocities in Dubrovnik and Bosnia, but that tarnish has only heightened anger towards Serbia. "We feel ashamed that some of our people were whipped into such a frenzy of nationalism by Belgrade that they did these things," said Dr Dragisa Burzan, international secretary of the Social Democratic Party in Podgorica, formerly Titograd.

Stivo Vucinic, secretary of the committee selecting the rebel Montenegrin patriarch, said: "The situation is urgent. It is very important for us to choose our spiritual leader. We are resurrecting the independence of our church. We cannot be slaves for ever."



A family sawing through a fallen tree on Sarajevo's "Sniper Alley" as the city's residents try to stock up firewood before the onset of winter. Oxfam yesterday appealed for £1 million and a million items of winter clothing for Bosnia and other areas of conflict in Eastern Europe

Falklands legacy hampers friendship

Squid bonus for Argentina

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

THE squid will help cement a new, warming relationship when the Argentine foreign minister visits Britain next week in the first such high-level exchange since the Falklands war.

When Guido José Mario di Tella signs a new fishing agreement, permitting an increased Argentine squid catch near the Falklands, the smiles and handshakes will mask disputes which are a legacy of the Falklands conflict.

He will sign an accord with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, allowing Argentina to fish twice as many fish in the South Atlantic as it did last year. The squid are vital to the economy of the Falklands, but Argentina also wants a share in the profits from selling licences to internation-

al fishing trawlers. Last year it agreed to limit its catch to 140,000 tons. This year it succeeded in raising the quota to 220,000 tons.

"We can't help it that the squid decide to come into Argentine waters before they migrate to the south. They are a common resource which we have to share. We do not want to see the economy of the Malvinas (as Argentina calls the Falklands) collapse," Señor di Tella said in an interview with *The Times*.

Although Señor di Tella is an outspoken Anglophile, he plans to raise unresolved disputes. Since Argentina and Britain resumed diplomatic relations in 1990 there have been several trade and commercial agreements and a frequent exchange of ministe-

rial visits. But President Menem's repeated sovereignty claims over the Falklands, and Britain's insistence on keeping a weapons embargo in force, underline that the two countries are still far from overcoming key issues.

The refusal by Argentine war veterans to co-operate with a Scotland Yard investigation into allegations that British officers executed Argentine prisoners of war after the Battle of Mount Longdon recently have also highlighted differences. Scotland Yard detectives have been in Argentina for the past week to investigate the allegations, but high-ranking officers, including General Leopoldo Galieri, the former dictator and leader during the conflict, have refused to co-operate.

'Champagne' loses its sparkle in Paris court

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

A PARIS court poured millions of francs of Yves Saint Laurent's money down the drain yesterday when it accepted the claim by Moët et Chandon and other champagne-makers that the fashion house had pirated their hal- lowed product name for its new perfume.

Judge Lydie Disser said customers might mistakenly believe there was some link between the fizzy wine and Champagne. Yves Saint Laurent's fragrance that was launched this month as a "homage to sparkling women", Mme Disser banned all further sale of the perfume under the Champagne name in France.

"Use of the term champagne to designate a perfume is liable to undermine the renown of the appellation d'origine (label of origin)

champagne," the judge said. Moët et Chandon is a division of Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the conglomerate that also owns Yves Saint Laurent's rivals Christian Lacroix, Givenchy and Christian Dior.

The judge cancelled Yves Saint Laurent's Champagne trade mark, ordered the confiscation of packing and advertising material and awarded 50,000 francs (£5,750) damages to Moët and two other complaining producers, Lanson and Brugnion. Yves Saint Laurent said it would appeal against the decision.

Claude Sautet, Yves Saint Laurent's managing director, noted that the order applied only to France. However, the champagne makers have begun similar court proceedings in Britain, Germany and other European countries where the perfume has been launched.

'Angel' plans Bosnia aid convoy

BY TOM RHODES



Becker: fund-raising record to be released

SALLY Becker, the independent aid worker known as the "Angel of Mostar", will return to Bosnia in December at the head of a relief convoy including volunteers from the British police and fire and ambulance services.

It will be the first time that a force of this nature has taken part in such an operation in the former Yugoslavia, the news of which comes just days after the United Nations halted convoys to certain parts of central Bosnia after

the death of a Danish driver. Ms Becker, 33, an artist from Brighton with no medical training, said yesterday she would be joined on her next mission by Hampshire ambulance workers and firefighters and Hampshire and Sussex police officers.

It is hoped sponsorship will come from sources as diverse as the government, Virgin Atlantic, Texas Homecare and Vauxhall Motors. A fund-raising record, *Hear the Children*, will be issued.

Another Major Advance in Air Traffic Control

The Civil Aviation Authority is continuously improving Britain's air traffic control system to make it more efficient and to reduce delays.

Last weekend the approach radar controllers from Heathrow and Gatwick airports joined their colleagues, responsible for London Terminal Operations, in a purpose-built operations room at the London Air Traffic Control Centre at West Drayton. The movement controllers operating from the Visual Control Rooms remain at the airports.

It's the key part of a system which will enable controllers safely to handle at least 30 per cent more flights over London and South East England – some of the world's busiest airspace.

The system – the Central Control Function – is part of the CAA's £150 million-a-year Investing for Growth programme to increase capacity to meet the growing demand for air travel.



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NEW YORK SHIP

Crested flowerpots, Barbour jackets and country sports are among the icons for the 1990s, as consumers seek a look to last

Old-fashioned quality, classic value

So Granny was right again. She told you to sit up straight or you would get back pain, that blue eyeshadow was vulgar and that men respect a girl who says "No". And, most boring of all, she told you to buy the best, because in the end quality — like breeding — would win through.

Buying the best has always been a depressing concept. After all, why spend a fortune on an Asprey watch when you could get a Swatch with interchangeable straps to match every outfit for less than half the price? People who buy best are the kind of people who regularly clean behind their refrigerator, keep their socks in a drawer labelled "socks" and would rather dine with Saddam Hussein than at McDonald's: sensible, smug and slightly dull.

Buying the best is a concept, however, which is growing in popularity, at least if *Country Life* is to be believed. Yesterday, that yardstick of British values announced that time-tested quality was the theme of the 1990s, while the flashy logos

and conspicuous consumption that every 1980s shopper craved were distinctly demode. No longer would we aspire to the glitzy lifestyle of Ivana Trump, our new role models would be more along the lines of the Queen Mother.

This rather worrying conclusion (do we all have to don like sea anemones and start taking a keen interest in horse racing?) had been reached as a result of a survey of 100 of the country's most prestigious retailers to see how they had fared in recessionary times. The magazine had expected tales of woe, but instead was surprised that nearly all were reporting record profits.

Among the success stories was Corney and Barrow, the London wine merchants, which reported a 15 per cent increase in sales of Delamotte champagne this year. Solid silver razors at £350 were

selling well at Czech and Speake, the bathroom specialists, while Whichford Pottery reported a boom in sales of flowerpots, hand-made and decorated with heraldic devices to give a sense of history.

Farlow's of Pall Mall, which specialises in fishing tackle, shooting accessories and country clothing, said that 1992 was the most successful in its 150-year history and 1993 was showing a 30 per cent increase on that. "We are hoping the recession does not come to an end," Alastair Baxter, the managing director, says. "Our customers have been more conscious of value in the last couple of years, but value does not necessarily mean cheapness." The best-selling shoot-



JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

ing jacket is also the shop's most expensive, at £330.

According to Melanie Cable-Alexander, the author of the *Country Life* article, such behaviour represents a more frugal and long-term way of thinking. "People are having to be more careful about their money and they know that what they buy has got to last."

Peter York, the social commentator, agrees. "There is nothing so educational as spending money, and people have learnt some lessons," he says. "The world has come a cropper in terms of new developments in Docklands, and people are more discriminating as a result. They might as well spend money on things that they will like and things

that are proven to endure." The changing fashion has meant booming business for Tricia Jameson, an interior designer and dealer in folk art. "The old quilts I sell are hellishly expensive," she says. "And I almost get the giggles when I tell people that the price of a tiny chipped mug with a robin on it is £65, but it doesn't stop them buying."

Fashion designers, too, are making the "old-fashioned" look their new one. Models have been parading the catwalk in woolly pullovers and cloth caps that were formerly reserved for the likes of Arthur Fowler on *EastEnders*, while Top Shop, which used to epitomise throwaway fashion, has started to stock second-hand clothes to save its customers scouring the markets.

It is a long way from the days of Harry Enfield's *Loadsamoney* character, who

bought tickets for the opera because they were expensive and hated trees "because money doesn't grow on them". But according to Mr York, this new interest in a simpler, more rustic way of life was just as much a part of the 1980s as the 1990s. "Interest in the country flourished in the boom years. People who had mobile telephones and red braces were also looking for a country garden. They wanted to have everything."

And the values we are emulating now are as much of an illusion as the dreams of a Wall Street broker. "The British are very sentimental about the country," Mr York says. "It's one of the things we do best. Britain is very urban. We had the first railways, the first factories and agriculture is on a large scale, without the peasant culture that still exists in France and Italy. There are very few people left who have experience of the sheer awfulness of scratching a living from the soil." But there are a lot who secretly think they look rather good in a Barbour jacket.

Having a ball, the British way

Eat your heart out Euro Disney, Alton Towers has got what it takes

AS WE sat and admired the roadworks on the M1 between Hemel Hempstead and Luton, I wondered if I had been rash to downgrade the half-term treat. We had talked of Euro Disney and even Orlando, before opting instead to sit among the traffic cones: if we ever got there, could Alton Towers possibly measure up?

Even though Florida is a long way to go for a funfair and you might get shot, and despite travellers' tales of the Euro Disney rip-off, we expected, the two seven-year-olds and I, that even the best of the homegrown theme parks could be only a pale imitation of anything that Disney did.

Four hours later, after winding along country roads from the Derby turn-off for more than an hour, we were mildly

you-witness instruments of masochistic pleasure as the size of skyscrapers.

There are 125 of these rides and attractions, more than at Euro Disney, so the Alton Towers marketing men naturally make much of them. The image of the place as a cut-price giant funfair, a downplayed and downmarket British version of something only Americans know how to do properly, has somehow persisted despite the best efforts of the current owners, the Pearson group, and the patronage of the Princess of Wales.

I am certain that disgruntled Euro Disney investors gave no thought to the phenomenal scale of investment in this patch of Staffordshire over the years. The Talbots did nothing by halves and their castle, genuinely grander and now genuinely more ruined than anything Disney could fake, was once the largest private house in Europe. What the Princess of Wales made of it I don't know, but when Queen Victoria went there as a girl she was struck almost dumb. "Extraordinary!" was all she could manage.

I can't quite imagine her on the Log Flume, which we braved despite the cold. Nobody else did, so there was no queue. Hot chips and hot chocolate warmed up the wet bits afterwards, and the three of us found ourselves agreeing that nothing, but nothing, could beat whooshing along a freezing waterslide in a plastic log of a canoe through the prettiest woodland we knew.

RIDICULOUSLY British? Yes, entirely so, in the best sense. "Mummy, why is everybody being so nice to us?" my daughter asked, as we went back for the second day on the improbably generous "Towers Two" deal, £3 each all in if you buy a ticket the day before. "They seem to be nice to everybody," I replied, as indeed they were.

Evidently it paid off, as groups of tall young men who were, I'm sure, just taking a break from their professions as football hooligans, muggers or car-radio thieves queued politely and reassured the children that they would no more fall out of the upside-down ride than does water fall out of a bucket when you swing it round your head.

Nobody said, "Have a nice day" and that, in our perverse British way, helped to ensure that we did just that.



MARGOT NORMAN



Malloy's urgent drive to succeed, with the Olympics as her goal, is shaking up America's boxing establishment and opening the way for other women to follow

Dallas pulls no punches

Ambitious and obsessed with her sport, Dallas Malloy is desperate to get into the ring for the big match. Kate Muir reports on the 16-year-old American who sweats gallons in her cause to advance women's boxing

Tomorrow 16-year-old Dallas Malloy will make history when she slugs it out with Heather Poyner in the first officially-sanctioned women's amateur boxing match in America.

Unlike the average young light-welterweight's match, Malloy's has been almost a year in the scheming. Indeed, for 106 years, the US Amateur Boxing Association banned women from the ring, and it took the combined might of Malloy, her lawyer, the American Civil Liberties Union and a sympathetic federal judge to allow the battle between two 130lb women to go ahead.

Malloy's pugilism appears as effective in the courtroom as the ring. Give her the grain, and she will go against it in any way possible. When the fit blonde arrived at Seattle's 12th Street Boxing Gym just over a year ago, she was the only woman there, and the trainers hoped she would get the message and quietly fade away. Now they consider her the best amateur, in terms of skill, in the place. She has been weightlifting, running and sparring for four hours a day for what will be a three-round

bout lasting six minutes. "When you see her face looking at you through her headgear, she looks like a little girl," says one of her male sparring partners. "If you think about it too long, you get three punches in your face. She's going to hurt somebody."

Poyner, her opponent, is 21, and has been a student of kickboxing and other martial arts for three years. She began extensive boxing practice only recently, but has the same height and reach as Malloy, so promoters expect them to be well-matched. Obviously, the novelty means the bout will be well-attended and waged on, but there is also hope that as men's amateur boxing declines, the addition of women will aid a revival.

Malloy is maintaining a short silence during the run-up to the fight, but she talked to her local paper, the *Seattle Times*, recently. "I thought this day would never come, but

now I can't wait to get in the ring," she said. "This is what I want to do."

Boxing is an unexpected choice for the middle-class daughter of two college lecturers. It is not as if she needed to escape a bad background or a rough life on the streets in the tradition of Rocky Marciano. Nor is she jumping on the "aerobics" bandwagon, where female fitness freaks tired of aerobics put boxing movements into their workouts to ensure shapely upper arms.

Malloy's 12th Street Gym is far from that Lycra-clad world. Fellow boxers report that it smells, as it ought, of old leather and old sweat. The converted basement is guarded by a bull terrier whose bark is worse than his bite. But women are accepted here, just as they are in the oldest gyms from New York to Los Angeles — so long as they train and sweat as hard as the men.

According to Katherine Dunn, a novelist and boxing

columnist from nearby Oregon, trainers and coaches have accepted women in the ring, while the boxing establishment — who make the rules — have been slow to catch up.

So far, Malloy has only sparred with men, since there are so few women to be found. Eventually, she hopes to fight other women in the Olympic Games, if the International Amateur Boxing Association follows the American lead. Canada has now allowed female fights for two years and has 100 registered amateurs. Most women fighters wear chest protectors, and have to sign a waiver declaring they are not pregnant.

The need to box came upon Malloy when she was watching Marlon Brando play former boxer Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*. Malloy became a role model whose independence and determination she admired, and she

changed her name from Jennifer McCleery to Dallas Malloy and searched the Yellow Pages for a suitable gym.

She has taken a year out of school to train, lives at home and supports herself with part-time jobs — including playing classical piano at \$8 an hour during meals in a retirement home. Since the age of 12, she has written poems and stories, and a series of novels, one of which has been sent to a publisher and rejected.

Her parents are baffled by the boxing obsession but agreed to help her with the legal fight to open boxing to women. Malloy clearly intends to be a celebrity, one way or another. "I've always kind of been ready," she said recently. "I'd think to myself, 'When I'm famous, this is what I'll say...'"

Many are puzzled at women's sudden interest in boxing, at the same time as the numbers of men are dwindle-

ing. The brain damage suffered by professional boxers, who do not use padded headgear, has been a turn-off, and women, surely, worry more about a three-times broken nose than men.

Not so, Malloy said to the *Seattle Times*, her knuckles raw from battering the punchbag. "I have people asking me, 'Aren't you worried about your pretty face?' like if I was ugly it wouldn't matter. People also keep asking me, 'Why do you want to do this?' Boxing is just one thing I do. It's a certain urge, but people just don't understand that."

They used to think women would die if they ran marathons. Of course women always could run marathons — they just didn't let them try. People tell me this is the hardest fight I'm ever going to have, just to get into the ring."

Her male colleagues at the gym have clearly got the message. On the wall, the graffiti includes this: "Dallas is a fast bimbo dame female butch babe gal chick bitch broad girl person woman lady boxer." All the words between "fast" and "boxer" have been crossed out.

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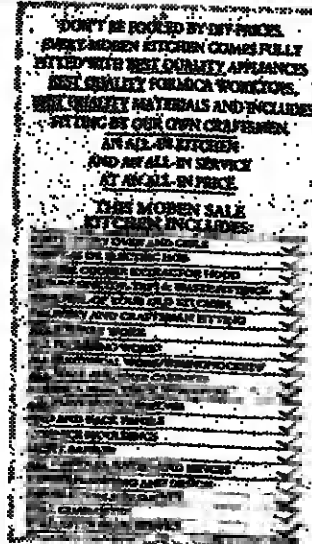
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Nicholas Soames on love, potted shrimps — and a joyous life as a fatty at the ministry of food

'Nobody could say there is a thin man inside me trying to get out'

Nicholas Soames MP, engaging and newly engaged to be married, would not object to being described as a pig in clover. "I adore pigs," he says, explaining the model of a spotted pig on his desk. "You know what my grandfather said: Dogs look up to human beings, cats look down on them, but a pig can look you right in the eye."

Seeing Soames in Whitehall is quite unlike most ministerial interviews. No bloody nose or sense about minions sitting in taping the conversation. Feet up on the table after his very agreeable lunch with Sir Jerry Wiggins at the Turf Club. His own sporting prints adorn the walls. Champagne bottles from the small celebration of his engagement announcement that morning.

It was Paul and Ingrid Channon's daughter Georgia who decided he and Miss Smith were meant for each other. Serena, Oxford graduate and keen huntswoman, is almost his match in height — he is 6ft 3in — and his equal in spirit when burgled recently in Sussex she went off to the Lanes in Brighton and retrieved her antiques, astonishing the police.

Romance blossomed after a hiatus while she strolled over the Altai mountains of Russia ("She loves the wild places, a proper outdoor girl"). She is 34 and the daughter of the great public benefactor, Sir John Smith, former Tory MP and founder of the Landmark Trust, which saves, restores and rents out historic ruins and follies.

Soames, at 45, can hardly believe his luck. He was already overwhelmed at his fortune in being at the Ministry of Agriculture, since country pursuits fill his happiest hours. "I really believe, like Trollope, that to be a member of parliament is the greatest thing on earth, the absolute summit of my ambitions. Anything else is the cream on top of an already very delicious cake."

When John Major appointed him minister of food there was general mirth, but also relief that the prime minister

should welcome men about him that were fat, sleek-headed men and such as sleep on nights. In a world of prim, abstemious politicians here was a food minister who said people should eat what they bally well like.

In Mary Soames's biography of Clementine Churchill he appears just once, in a letter where Lady Churchill describes nursery tea with her four-year-old grandson: "Giuseppe made the most

tedious EC regulations. If "the wonderful Mr Baxter of Morecambe Bay, who makes the best potted shrimps in Great Britain" has a problem with inspection requirements, Soames is the man to step in and resolve it.

But what wins him a vociferous fan club is not his protection of the potted shrimp but the fact that he so enlivens any room he enters, including the chamber of the House where he once accosted Dennis Skinner thus: "Look here, Skinner, I'm coming up to Derbyshire this weekend for some shooting with Andrew Devonshire. I thought I might look in on you — so you'd better lay in some gulls' eggs, that sort of thing, and get that wife of yours out of her curlers, all right?"

The Beast, who took this in good part, is greatly admired by Soames for his unwavering dedication and his mastery of Erskine May. "He's a formidable operator, always there, chuntering away below the gangway whenever a minister's on a bad wicket. 'Aye aye, another bloody cover-op'. And there's a wonderfully Cromwellian side to him: if Boots sent him a diary for Christmas he'd send it back."

It is this ability to amuse and embrace adversaries — he constantly calls Teresa Gorman an adornment, though disagreeing with her about almost everything; he misses Alan Clark's fascinating company even though "his politics were completely *tanto*" and he has a running joke with Paul Boateng over his expensive, unstructured suits: "Unstructured is the word: he's a very agreeable egg, Boateng, but his tailor really does need sharpening up" — that inspired the recent campaign to promote Soames as a possible next chairman of the Tory party.

The rest of us might feel an ebullient, breezy, booming figure is just what a lean, troubled party needs to boost morale. Soames frankly doubts it, though he wishes it were so, and was flattered by the notion. As he says, a donkey could have run a Tory party with a majority of 100, a booming economy and a Falk-



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

land factor. "But these are bloody difficult times, and I think Norman Fowler has done a bloody good job."

"I don't think the general public has any great affection for the Tory party, but they are meant to be good at government and to do that you have to be united. I really do believe in the traditional principle of one-nation Toryism and there is too much faction in the party today: but John Major at Blackpool laid out the ground on which everyone could camp."

Coffee is brought by Trish



Soames in love — he would not object to being compared with a pig in clover

politically incorrect child, I'm glad to say, heavily into weapons of war. A leading authority on *Sink the Bismarck* and *The Dam Busters* and could tell you more about the swordfish torpedo than Basil Liddell-Hart."

Like all the Soameses he speaks in ringing tones: "The dear old Labour party could have had our balls over that." "Oh don't be so ridiculous, never heard such balls in all my life. End of Nicholas Soames counselling service." "I won't have this rotting of civil servants, unsung glory of British life."

Whenever he feels he has blathered on too long about his belief in a non-federalist Europe *des patries* he shuts himself up with "Great Bores of Our Time, Nicholas Soames, volume one." "I know my limitations and I know I'm not very clever," he says, "but I'm not a complete buffoon and I do take my job incredibly seriously. I'm responsible for every horrid thing — BSE, animal health, animal welfare, the emotive badger legislation, a tricky portfolio, every inch of the road fraught with potholes. I sign literally hundreds of letters each week about animal welfare, which the British rightly feel very strongly about. Try telling our partners in Europe that the transport of animals is a moral and ethical question and they look at you with blank incomprehension."

Waving his stick, he said he thought beating up single mothers was quite frankly bad sport in which the Tory party should not indulge — "It's like saying what's wrong with Europe is making environmental health officers inspect cheeses" — but Lilley was absolutely right to stamp on foreign social security fraudsters, and Howard is at least getting off his arse and doing something about people's deepest anxieties.

A diary ruled by politics and sport, he says, is what scuppered his first marriage to Catherine Weatherall, who ran off with an Olympic skier. But "I am an extremely gregarious man, blessed with a wide circle of extremely hospitable friends" and he shoots and fishes by the season, cutting a frenetic swathe to country houses across the land, stopping off to speak on behalf of fellow Tories, playing his Trollope talking-book tapes, often accompanied by Harry and now by "this extremely understanding and tolerant girl who has generously consented to be my wife."

But to view politics as a career is a fatal mistake. We could all be out on our scrawny necks in a few years. His far from scrawny neck, hanging on a majority of 7,000, is threatened by the Boundaries Commission, which will cruelly deprive him of six rural Tory wards. Never mind: tomorrow he will introduce Serena to constituents at the opening meet of the Crawley and Horsham bounds, and they will dance the night away at the Conservatives' annual ball: "a feast of fun," says Nickers.

I would know that the building was about to be demolished and I would NOT have chained my bike to the railings.

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Hello! An Economist

It was enough to justify several headlines. "Diana on the track of culture" was the gist of the large print. And all because the Princess of Wales was carrying a copy of *The Economist* this week.

One has to take care. I first wrote: "And all because the Princess was reading a copy of *The Economist*." Whether she has absorbed its usual diet of leaders on the need for free markets and further leaders on the need for more free markets, we know not. But it is indisputable that, on a visit to Wales, she had a copy of the mag under her arm.

This is of interest to headline watchers. In the shifting seas of intellectual fashion, here is a pointer. We may in the past have thought of the Princess only as a setter of trends for frocks, but now she is helping every aspiring thinker decide what is appropriate reading when out on the town. It is *The Economist*, she has decided — like the Kennedys before her — which gives off just the right cultural vibes. It shows, at a glance, how highbrow we are.

With the invention of the romantic novel in the 18th century, the book or journal as badge and style statement was born. By the late 18th century, Byron's warbabe were swooning Europe-wide in the wake of Goethe's *Werther*. No adolescent dandy would venture out without a slim volume obtruding obtrusively from his pocket.

Those who wished to present a more serious mien knew then the value of books of sermons and religious treatises. Sheridan's Lydia Langish hides a copy of *The Innocent Adulteress* when her guardian calls and displays a

The Princess joins the tradition of reading as a style statement



The Princess and her mag

volume of sermons instead, and Marie-Antoinette perfected the art of reading racy fiction hidden inside her prayer book.

In the 19th century, it was French novels that spelt racy chic. Lord Morley was once so disgusted by one that he threw it out of the window of his train. By the second world war, every thinking soldier carried a copy of *Horizon*; after the war, *Encounter* held sway till it was discredited by the discovery that it was part-funded by the CIA.

This century the Scott Moncrieff translation of Proust was okay reading even

in France; a volume of Joyce (probably *Finnegans Wake*); or some Dostoevsky in the original all give suitably intellectual signals. Nothing from a book club will do. More recently, South American writers with three unpronounceable names that have cedillas under them have done nicely. But the fortunes of journals are more mercurial. While *New Statesman* for a while spelt radical left-wing chic, its star has waned as that of *Granta* has waxed. The *Spectator* had a good run under Alexander Chancellor and Charles Moore. But the smart literary set are perhaps less likely to leave it on their coffee tables now.

Nobody is suggesting you actually read the books or magazines, of course. As Richard Cobb said when a Booker prize judge to London's literary, he had never got beyond the first page of Proust or Joyce "never having read either."

How very refreshing. The Princess of Wales should not feel she has to read *The Economist* just because it may momentarily hold sway, she believes, in the intellectual firmament. Better to read as her fancy takes her. Reading is for pleasure, not to be undertaken to impress others with the trendiness of one's taste, only to be carried so as to show we know what is fashionable. Frank Johnson I'm told always carries a copy of Kennedy's Latin primer tucked in his pocket.

Silly me. As I peer closer at the picture of our Princess, I think I realise the wisdom of her ways. Tucked inside *The Economist*, I'm sure, is a copy of *Hello!*

RACHEL KELLY

COMMERCIAL UNION

We won't make a drama out of a crisis.

How to collect Social Security at any age

Every year, thousands of millions of pounds on offer from the Government go unclaimed. In some schemes, the take up rate is only a third of those eligible — just because most people don't even know the Government owes them that money. A new book tells how every UK citizen can collect their share of the £68 thousand million that will be handed out this year by the Government. The book explains how to collect social security before retirement, small business loans, income supplements, education benefits, farm loans and unemployment job training. Here are just a few faces covered:

- How 4,830,000 people collect monthly benefits from one scheme alone.
- How 12,185,000 children get regular benefit payments.
- How to qualify for disability pensions (more than 970,000 collecting but thousands more eligible).
- How to know when to quit work and start collecting monthly retirement benefits.
- How you may be cheating yourself out of cash benefits rightfully due to you.
- How to collect unemployment benefits even if you quit your job or were fired.
- How to get free legal assistance.
- How to get well-paid Government jobs.
- How to get free cash to start your own business. (It's simple and the book tells you exactly how to do it.)
- How to get the Government to guarantee your business start-up loan.
- How to collect a £30,000 grant for home improvements.
- How to collect £3,600 or more more a year to attend college.
- How to get free prescriptions, spectacles and dental care.
- How to collect hundreds of pounds a month to pay your rent.
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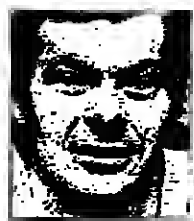
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Philip Howard



There's no reason not to be worried about the decline of English

We were taught that double negatives are a no-no. But language is more interesting than that. Neither the Greeks nor the French believe that two negatives make a positive. They use negatives to reinforce each other, spreading a thin Marmite of negative over the whole sentence instead of hlobbering it on a single place.

Chaucer did it: He never yet no vileynye ne sayde in all his lyf, unto no maner wight. He was a verray parfit gentil knyght. Nor was Shakespeare not averse to no-nos, give or take a negative or not, when he made King Claudius say: "Nor what he said, though it lacked form a little, / Was not like madness." Most of us do it by accident, when we say something like, "I shouldn't wonder if it didn't snow." It is prudent to avoid multiple negatives, because they make the heads of your audience alternate backwards and forwards like grumpy nodding Buddhas. "There is no reason to doubt what he says is not true." What we meant was, "There is no reason to doubt his statement is true." Multiple negatives produce and express confusion of thought.

But let it not be supposed neither that our trouble with these grammatical rules means that English is decaying. The debate over double negatives and the wickedness of "it's me" and "very unique" can be found three centuries ago. Grammar changes, and some fields of grammar, such as the double negative, have always tripped the crurally threatened. As Horace ought to have written: *O (crus, O quando ego te adspiciam!*

Conservative linguistic pessimists such as the education secretary think that English is going to the dogs, because the young can neither spell nor write correct grammar. My experience of young persons' writing suggests that the linguistic doomsters exaggerate the problem. The sixth-form book reviews I judged last week were grammatically impressive and livelier than the copycat stuff we churned out at that age, though I agree I may see the *crème de la crème*. And I think that decay is a misleading metaphor for what happens to language. The woods decay, the woods decay and fall. To suppose that language does is pathetic fallacy.

The pessimists have received powerful support in his inaugural lecture by Jonathan Powell, the new professor of Latin at Newcastle University, and one of the wittiest wordsmiths in the country. He made a fascinating comparison between the history of English and the 2,500-year history of Latin, and is reminded by the "bad" English written by students today of some of the Latin written during the Dark Ages, after the collapse of the Western Empire and of the old Roman education. Professor Powell guesses that English is replaying the events of the 9th century, and that its spoken varieties are starting to emerge as separate languages, just as Italian, French and the other Romance languages emerged as the offspring of Latin. English itself will persist, if at all, prophesies Powell, only as an artificially preserved classical language, as Latin has.

Professor Powell is a more formidable and rational opponent than other linguistic conservatives, and I hate to argue with a friend on his inaugural. But that sounds like poppycock. The centripetal forces working for a simplified standard English today were not there when the Roman Empire broke up. The printing press and agreed conventions of publication are immediately available all round the world, whereas the texts of the monastic copyists had a tiny, elite and mostly local circulation. Peasants in the paddy fields listen to the latest pop varieties of English, while demagogues are seen and heard at once around the world on television. Instead of being confined to their local forum, ordinary citizens holiday beyond their villages, taking their language with them. Of course there are local dialects and grammars, and many national forms of English. But I think the central core of English is becoming the world language, and that Shakespeare will be enjoyed in a hundred years from Calcutta to Los Angeles, though with different accents. Neither of us will be around to see who is right. He usually is. The right metaphor for language is not the dying swan, but the tide, which changes all the time while it ebbs and flows, but never neither progresses nor decays.



29/X/93 *THROUGH A GLASS, DARKLY* 1 Corinthians 13:12

Returned: fate unknown

A mix-up in the mail has identified a group of refugees to the cruel regime in Vietnam, yet the West shows no mercy

John Philpot Curran put it much better than I could, so here is his version: "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime, and the punishment of his guilt."

Someone in the story I shall now embark upon failed that first test; he dropped his guard for a moment, forgot that vigilance must be eternal, and so precipitated the dreadful consequences. Here goes.

You may remember (it wasn't more than a few years ago) the fierce struggle over the indigenous refugees from Vietnam who fled to Hong Kong. As their numbers swelled (a great number drowned — some of them tried to make it with boats that would be rejected on the Serpentine), the camps in which the refugees were settled became more and more crowded; the offshore islands of Hong Kong were sinking under their weight, and "still they gazed, and still the wonder grew..."

No wonder, because these people were fleeing from a dreadful tyranny, and fleeing to a democracy (a strange democracy, but yet a real one). But as the flood of refugees became an unstoppable one, it was decreed, in the British Foreign Office, that only a few of these people were fleeing because they had defied the totalitarian rulers of Vietnam and would be subjected to grim punishments if they went back. The rest of the flood, they were told, were not in fear of punishment for defiance of their rulers; they were only what were called "economic refugees". These were people who could live in Vietnam without being tagged as subversives, but of course with a very much lower standard of living than they would have in Hong Kong. The Foreign Office, amazingly skilled in sniffing, indeed different sniffings, laid down that, say, this family smelt of economic advancement, whereas that family smelt quite differently, demonstrating that they had been involved in Vietnamese politics, and therefore in danger if they went home. (As you may imagine, the Foreign Office delicately indicated that the number of economic refugees should be swelled enormously, while the political ones should be shrunk to a handful; and thus it was.)

At first, the refugees who abominably: there were terrible fights, as men, women and children, were dragged, screaming, into the boats and planes; no wonder that the camp islands were out

of bounds to journalists. Slowly, though, the resistance died down, and the poor devils who had risked their lives for a different existence went back to the existence they had had before. There were promises from the Foreign Office that those who had been sent back would be "monitored" — that is, observed — to see that the "returnees" were not persecuted. (The plan was ridiculous and could never have been thought anything else.)

Then someone made a mistake. It seems that it was made in the US Post Office, a most auspicious place to make a mistake, but its consequences could and can be terrible. Because of an envelope with insufficient information on it, the envelope and its contents were sent back to what was thought to be their origin; and that was the mistake. For the envelope contained a list of names of a group of anti-communists, people who had announced their defiance of communist Vietnam, and the United States mails sent it back to Ho Chi Minh City. Very tiresome, no doubt, but since the group of anti-communists are not in Vietnam but remain in Hong Kong, no great harm will come to them. No, but if they are sent back to Vietnam, it is feared, and rightly feared, that very great harm will undoubtedly come to them, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), whose job it is to sift out those Vietnamese who would be persecuted for their political activity, is adamant that they should be sent back.

At the beginning of this lamentable business, there was some doubt over whether the missing envelope and contents really existed, and if they existed whether they were forged. The Hong Kong Postal Service wrote to its Vietnamese equivalent to authenticate the letter, and to everybody's astonishment, it got a reply. Here it is.

Dear Sir: Referring to your letter N (2) in (5/93) in IMC/ENQ of 18 February 1993, we confirm that the indication "MIS SENT TO HO CHI MINH CITY" on the

address side of this airmail envelope and the "HO CHI MINH" postmark on the reverse side were genuine endorsements made by our services. Yours faithfully, The Deputy Director of Post Viet Nam: Le Hong Khai.

Now for a digression, but a digression so real, so vivid, and so indicative that it must have an airing. It defines the nature of the personnel in the British Foreign Office and of the personnel in the French Foreign Office.

Bernard Levin

two men wrote to Mr Lowman. Here is the Frenchman, the assistant chief of mission:

Dear Shep, Thank you for your letter of May 5, 1992, concerning the case of 39 Vietnamese asylum seekers and a letter allegedly misdirected to Ho Chi Minh City. May I take this opportunity to apologise for my delayed response. After investigation with our office in Ho Chi Minh City, it appears that the stamp "Mis-sent to Ho Chi Minh City" does exist in Vietnamese and French but not in English. In light of this information you may wish to draw the appropriate conclusion concerning the potential risk the people concerned could be exposed to on that basis if they are determined not to be refugees and are repatriated to their country of origin.

That from the Frenchman; now for the British representative:

Dear Shep, Many thanks for your letter of 16 April. We are well aware of this group (the 39 in danger) and their claims. So are the UNHCR, who may wish to consider their case for refugee status under the High Commissioner's mandate. I have to say that there are several aspects to this case (while as you say we well publicised — deliberately) which do not ring true, and we have some evidence for this. But as screening has now been completed for this group, this is something that falls to UNHCR rather than me to consider. Thank you for taking the trouble to write on this unusual case.

Well? You can smell the difference: the Frenchman's scent is helpful and human, the Englishman's stink defines the kind of creature that for years has infested our Foreign Office, and still does.

But that does not solve the problem of the 39 and their danger. In March of this year, in Vietnam, Professor Doan Viet Hoa was sentenced to 20 years because of his membership in a group called Freedom Forum, and at least seven more of the troupe were imprisoned for various terms; the Freedom Forum is very much the same kind of body as the 39 of the United Anti-Communist Group. What hope have the 39 if they are sent back?

For an answer, do not expect something hopeful from the UN officer Job van der Veen, who insists that the 39 do not come under the shelter of "a well-founded fear of being persecuted". Indeed, do not expect anything at all from Mr van der Veen, who seems to reply to every item of evidence with a rubber-stamp reading "I regret to have to inform you that after having looked at all possible aspects of their cases the conclusion was reached that they do not qualify for refugee status". Already, two of the group have been forcibly returned to Vietnam: one of them, Nguyen Thanh Hai, was bound and gagged throughout the flight. What has become of him, and what will, is unknown.

We are not talking now about the exodus of the early days, when the boat people came in floods to Hong Kong, seeking asylum or betterment or both. We are talking about 39 people who have publicly and vigorously stated that they hate and defy the communist Vietnamese regime, and want to see it brought down and democracy installed. The High Commissioner's representative is saying that in those conditions the 39 have nothing to fear from return, and he is reinforcing that mad conclusion by threats, almost certainly to be carried out, of repatriation — achieved by binding his prisoners hands and feet, and gagging their mouths.

There have been far greater crimes in this form; for instance, the hundreds of thousands delivered into Stalin's hands at the end of the war. But this crime somehow touches great depths of feeling. The Vietnam post office acted most correctly over the missing envelope; no doubt it will be just as thorough when it receives a parcel of human beings, tied and wrapped. Further, Nguyen Thanh Hai has been interviewed and as yet has suffered no harm. We shall see.

EC in fog, France isolated

George Brock says
French fears about
Europe affect us all

Today's EC summit in Brussels will unroll in time-honoured fashion: sleek, wailing limousines and flocks of suits milling about amid the chaos of a Belgian public sector strike. The preliminaries have been equally traditional. No EC summit is complete without a last-minute "Franco-German initiative". A joint letter from President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl duly burst upon the world on Wednesday.

In the past, such letters have struck fear into Whitehall and thrilled British headline writers. Long experience taught that if the French and German leaders had cooked up a wheeze before the summit began, Britain was bound to be "isolated" before long. But events over the past year have broken this pattern, and the messages about France and Germany leading the EC into political and economic union irrespective of Britain have faded.

This week's pre-summit letter from Paris and Bonn has had all the galvanising effect of a damp sock. Apart from a florid outline of the Maastricht treaty, the letter proposes more frequent ministerial meetings in Brussels — hardly an idea with much political sex appeal. The French government apparently wants the ministers to keep a better check on the European Commission, but this is not what federalists want to hear. Starved of good news, they want their idols, Mitterrand, Kohl and Jacques Delors, to thump out the old-time religion about building a united Europe. Instead, France's prime minister, Edouard Balladur, has begun to sound a touch British in his suspicion of Brussels.

Everyone is thinking again about Europe, and the result is deep intellectual and political confusion. Today's summit will be downbeat because the Maastricht treaty was a compromise which enthusiasts for a federal Europe once believed was temporary. "You won this time, but we'll do it the next time round," a senior German negotiator told his British counterpart as they left the Maastricht summit almost two years ago. Would he be so confident today? Many treated the Danish refusal to ratify Maastricht as a temporary hiccup, but it ended with Denmark carving huge opt-outs in the Maastricht treaty. The German constitutional court endorsed the treaty, but also said loud and clear that nation states are the key elements of the international system. President Mitterrand survived a Maastricht referendum by a whisker. More than a year later, the extent of French doubt revealed by that vote still dominates the life of the Community.

The EC exists to assure Germany's immediate neighbours that the giant next door is no longer dangerous. The machinery of Brussels was fuelled for many years by French anxiety about Germany. French presidents skillfully wove France and the EC's interests together. As M Balladur put it to *Le Figaro* with startling candour yesterday: "If I am an advocate of the building of Europe, it is so that our country should be richer and its voice carry further."

But the French have begun to wonder whether that equation works. The manic-depressive French political class has recovered from the collective nervous breakdown it suffered when Germany was reunified, but it has not regained its poise in the face of an enlarged and more assertive neighbour. France is increasingly often isolated inside the EC over trade and economic policy; its position in Nato remains equally lonely. If a Gatt world trade deal is fixed before Christmas, French public opinion may shift decisively against the EC. Such a change would destroy France's entire post-war foreign policy.

British ministers may enjoy the prospect, but they should worry about France's broken dreams. Britain gains when the Franco-German "motor" of EC integration stutters, but along with the rest of Europe we stand to lose if the engine stops altogether.

Battersea gods' home

IS THERE no end to the humiliation to be heaped on Battersea power-station, the loved and lamented London landmark which has been abandoned to the elements for so long? The record company Polydor has just lodged a planning application to decorate Gilbert Scott's brick building with giant perspex models of the Bee Gees.

If Wandsworth council approves the application, three of the station's towers will be graced by brightly-lit, 40ft models of members of the band. The fourth tower will boast illuminated and the record company hopes, illuminating — information: "Legendary Bee Gees. 100 million records sold. Pure British Energy."

The council is somewhat surprised by the application to erect cut-outs of Maurice, Robin and Barry Gibb, who have just released an album *Size Isn't Everything*. But planners promise to consider the promotion in the very near future. "It's quite an extraordinary idea," says Guy Senior, chair-

man of the planning committee. "I don't know how the local residents would feel, but we would have to make sure they were properly secured. We don't want anyone felled by a flying Bee Gee."

Polydor hopes its power-station illuminations, to celebrate the family group's 30th anniversary, will rival the lights in Oxford Street. "We're hopeful we can get them up before Christmas. We wanted to do something really special and to brighten up people's lives. We're down on bended



knees before the planners." Not in their nice white suits, one hopes.

● Vikram Seth appears undaunted by Lord Gowrie's outburst against his lengthy novel *A Suitable Boy*. Not only has Seth just published a very much stunner volume, *Beastly Tales* — animal stories in verse — but he has also delivered his first work for the theatre, a libretto, to the English National Opera. "It's called *Arion and the Dolphin* — he seems very knowledgeable about opera," says a spokesman. Who knows — now he no longer needs to worry about *Sotieby's* or the *Booker*. *Gowrie* might even make the first night, next summer.

Housey housey

IT HAS everything one would expect of the perfect English house. But Darlington Hall, the country seat in Merchant Ivory's new film *Remains of the Day*, where the butler (Anthony Hopkins) hides his feelings for the housekeeper (Emma Thompson), is an illusion. The property is actually an amalgam of four of Britain's very best residences.



DIARY

The film-makers could not find a single house to fit the bill, so they combined bits of Dyrham Park near Bath, Corsham Court in Wiltshire, Powderham Castle in Devon, and Badminton House, the Duke of Beaufort's home in Avon. The entrance front is from Dyrham and the staircase hall is Powderham. Many interior shots are at Corsham, but the servants' quarters are from Badminton, says Joe Friedman, Merchant Ivory's location consultant.

One can fully expect the former Piccadilly home of the Princess of Wales's family to feature in future Merchant Ivory films. For it was Friedman's meticulous research, published this week as a coffee-table book entitled *Spencer House*, that persuaded Lord Rothschild to undertake the property's restoration.

● The government is clearly taking no chances over the likely impact of Kenneth Clarke's public spending cuts. Peter Lilley, social security secretary, and his under-secretary, Alistair Burt, were spotted yesterday treating George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, to lunch. But one suspects it will take more than the institutional fare of the Carlton Club to bring the church back into the government's fold.

Wrist reaction

PRACTICE may make perfect, but it doesn't necessarily make you any quicker. On home territory in Grantham yesterday, Baroness Thatcher managed to sign 494 copies of *The Downing Street Years* in a 90-minute stint at the Guildhall. That works out at about 10.9

seconds per autograph, only a few hundredths of a second faster than the 11 seconds she averaged at her Harrods debut ten days ago.

Despite a now well practised production line technique, the modest improvement in speed still left 500 of Grantham's finest disappointed before she moved on to Oxford, the last British stop in her promotional tour.

There she celebrated her visit to the university town that refused her an honorary doctorate with a speech at the Sheldonian, a champagne reception hosted by Blackwell's at Bleinham Palace — and another reprint order for 20,000 copies.

● Sir Bernard Ingham, Thatcher's veteran brusier of a press secretary, has put his weight behind demands for strengthening John Major's team in Downing Street. Writing for the public relations firm Hill & Knowlton, he praises his successor, Gus O'Donnell, but adds the principle: "A civil service chief press secretary cannot do the job of the party in office for it." It never seemed to stop Ingham trying.



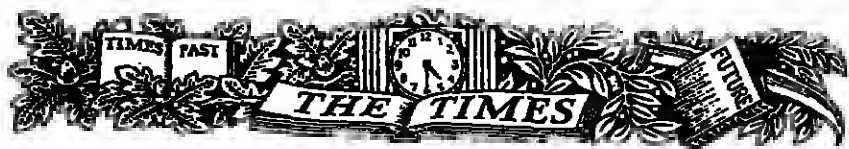
Know the face, but...

Promotion to supermodel status does not come easily, but Holly Scott (left), a striking blonde who recently modelled underwear for Sock Shop, appears to have achieved it overnight — courtesy of the *Daily Express*.

A large photograph of Scott appeared in yesterday's edition of the paper. Unfortunately the picture accompanied a story explaining how Claudia Schiffer (right) was threatening to "go to the highest court in the US to stop publication of an eight-page *Penthouse* spread".

The model agency Elite Premier, which acts for both models, was understandably perplexed at the case of mistaken identity. "We all tell her she looks like Claudia, but everyone knows she isn't. She is a very good model and does very well. It's very complimentary, a sort of endorsement I suppose." But would Claudia approve? "She probably would not be too pleased." Which perhaps explains why enquiries yesterday about the mishap were being directed to the newspaper's lawyers.

هكذا من الاجل



FOOTLOOSE IN BRUSSELS

The EC's pointless diplomatic set-pieces are an embarrassment

Douglas Hurd need not fret. If there are any "blasts of trumpets" in Brussels today, the clamour is more likely to come from demonstrating Belgian workers than from the European Community summit allegedly called to celebrate the birth of the European Union. The Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, may well end up being as embarrassed by this pointless diplomatic set-piece as John Major was a year ago when his equally redundant "emergency summit" in Birmingham, called in panic after sterling's forced exit from the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM), gave his EC colleagues a ringside view of his discomfiture over the botched pit closures plan.

The less point there is to such gatherings, the grander the claims politicians feel obliged to make for them. It seems hard to believe that Mr Major was really fool enough to believe that a day's chat in Birmingham would, as he then demanded, "end the economic and political turbulence" in the EC. M Dehaene's call for a grand "relaunching of European integration" seems even further removed from reality.

The Belgian presidency's federalist enthusiasm no doubt precluded cancellation of this non-event; but a frank letter of invitation would have read as follows.

"Dear Colleagues:
You pencilled October 29 into your diaries in early August, when the ERM collapsed in all but name. It was supposed to be an "emergency summit" to put monetary union back on track. Since EMU has been retreating ever since — we had to admit soon afterwards that it was unrealistic even to revert to the narrow-band fluctuations in the ERM — we should really have cancelled the meeting. But as some of us discovered in August, there is no gainsaying Helmut when he sets his jaw, and he has absolutely insisted on converting the wake for EMU into a birthday party for the Treaty on European Union. Besides, it would have looked bad for us simply to have announced that we had no business to discuss.

"We must, of course, say something about the EC's "growth initiative". But the painful

truth is that we have no ideas ready for getting our economies out of recession and our nearly 20 million unemployed back to work — the questions that really matter to our voters, and the subject of the proper EC summit in December. The best we can do on Friday is to sound relentlessly upbeat, with much talk of the immediate implementation of Maastricht. We had better not discuss changes to the voting rules for European councils: that would only advertise the fact that we small countries are at loggerheads with France, Germany and Britain on this subject. As for Gatt, the less said the better. I hear that François and Helmut are planning yet another "joint initiative", friends, I beg you, stick to the uncontroversial.

"Conversely, I attach the greatest importance to speedy agreement to place the European Monetary Institute in Frankfurt — both to please the Germans, who are becoming alarmingly tetchy about parting with the mark, and to maintain the illusion that EMU is on track. Such window-dressing is all the more important, as I understand that John would flatly oppose any attempt to confirm the original EMU timetable. I will do my level best to see that we all get a fair share of the other new EC institutions; even if we have no new policies, we can at least share out the birthday presents.

"In conclusion, dear friends, Belgium remains absolutely committed to the strategic goal of a federal Europe. But even we recognise that there is a time to *reculer pour mieux sauter*. I rely on your *solidarité* — and our mutual interest in rescuing the Union's rather tattered image among our voters by a display of resolute optimism and harmony."

Alas for M Dehaene, the centrepiece of the Franco-German initiative is a proposal for still more frequent EC meetings, albeit at junior foreign minister level. The most useful idea to come out of this summit would be a ban on wasting prime ministers' time on "emergencies" and "celebrations". Summits are for taking decisions, not for camouflaging their absence. Who better to propose this modest bow to common sense than Britain? There is joy in every sinner that repenteth.

POLICING SHEEHY

Reforming the police will test the home secretary

Michael Howard's response to the Sheehy report on police pay and conditions yesterday was more ambitious than his critics had predicted and less so than the report's champions had hoped. By endorsing most of the enquiry's best proposals, the home secretary has launched a much-needed overhaul of an employment structure rooted in the Victorian era. He has listened to the sensible objections of the police without surrendering the central objectives of the report.

The highly acrimonious consultation period since Sir Patrick Sheehy's enquiry delivered its 272 recommendations in July has been ill-suited to sound discussion of policy. Defiantly exploiting the instinctive reluctance of Conservatives to antagonise the police, the unions mounted a fierce campaign against the proposals. Enlisting the help of his Labour shadow, Tony Blair, they warned darkly that the Sheehy programme would jeopardise the maintenance of law and order. As the battle against crime rose to the top of the political agenda, nervous Tory backbenchers joined the chorus urging Mr Howard to perform a U-turn.

This he has not done. Instead, the home secretary has over-ruled the letter of the report where the arguments against were strong, while adhering in general to its spirit. Sir Patrick's proposals for fixed term contracts, which have been the main *casus belli* with the police service, will now apply only to senior officers. With increased devolution of authority, there is a fair case for making a chief constable explicitly accountable for performance over a five-year period: there is no case whatsoever for forcing a constable on the beat through such hoops.

At that level, it is the strength of disciplinary procedures that count. Mr

Howard has already announced reforms which should make it easier to sack incompetent officers and combat the assumption that the police service offers a job for life. These must complement performance-related pay, which the Home Secretary has rightly agreed should be linked to appraisal rather than crude indicators such as number of arrests. He should nonetheless heed the warning of the Police Federation that proper appraisal will be costly.

Other matters Mr Howard has deferred or left unclear. He has rejected Sir Patrick's recommendation that police pensions be made conditional upon 40 years of service but has delegated the broader question of pension arrangements to review. The starting pay of new police officers will not, as proposed, be reduced by £2,000 — but has yet to be settled. Overtime will be abolished for inspectors but the entitlements of other ranks will be put to the police negotiating board. It is vital that the home secretary resolve these questions as quickly as possible.

Having weathered the political storm of the Sheehy report comparatively well, Mr Howard now faces the even more daunting task of implementation. He must ensure that the abolition of three senior ranks really does put more officers on the beat. He must explain how he will meet the considerable severance costs implicit in his proposals. Above all, he must respect the police service's belief in vocation, while introducing the market disciplines and performance measurements which characterise a true profession. It is to the home secretary's credit that he has preserved so many of the principles enshrined in the original report. The test of his response will be the courage with which they are put into practice.

KEEP THE CHANGE

London's taxis must not be driven out of business

Britain can boast only a few institutions which are the envy of the world. London taxis are one of them. Not only does their shape define the capital's identity as distinctively as the double-decker bus, Big Ben or the Palace of Westminster: their drivers have a skill on the road and a knowledge of the city unrivalled by those of any other country. If the transport department is to reform the laws regulating taxis and minibuses, it must ensure that London's black cabs will not vanish from the streets as a result.

The balance of regulation that keeps black cabs in business while allowing a huge minibus industry to thrive alongside is a delicate one. Licensed taxis are more expensive than minibuses because the drivers' costs are higher. Their cabs cost over £20,000 to buy and have to be maintained to a far more demanding standard than minibuses. In London, where there is no regulation at all of minibuses, taxi drivers claim that many are uninsured and are driven by people who are claiming unemployment benefit.

But if black cabs are more expensive, they have distinct advantages for the passenger. Unlike minibuses, they can ply for hire, either by cruising the streets or waiting in ranks. They are obliged to accept any hiring of up to six miles within the Metropolitan Police

District. After about two years spent studying the city, taxi drivers have an encyclopaedic knowledge of its myriad streets. And the drivers and vehicles are rigorously vetted. Passengers can feel safe.

Many London cabbies prefer the minibus industry to be unregulated. If a minibus driver attacks a passenger, more people will be deterred from the cheaper option. But minibuses serve a purpose too. For simple journeys needing no great geographical knowledge, they provide better value than black cabs. And their sheer numbers — between 40,000 and 60,000 in London — mean that one is usually available within minutes.

However, the government does have some responsibility for passenger safety. Outside London, 95 per cent of councils license local minibuses. Some drivers are subject to criminal record checks and some have to pass the same topographical tests as taxi drivers. London's minibus drivers do not ply for trade on the street and should not be subject to heavy regulation. But passengers have a right to be reassured that every minibus driver is at least properly insured and has not been convicted of a violent or sex crime, or a serious driving offence. Regulation in London should be minimal, but for the passenger's protection, it should exist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Doubts cast on merit of 30-year rule

From Dr Anthony Glee

Sir, The publication of the memoirs of Lady Thatcher, and those of so many other members of her various governments, raises the important question of the continued validity of the 30-year rule which, since 1967, has regulated the publication of confidential and secret government papers.

If ministers, who can hardly be considered wholly objective, are free to publish their accounts of contemporary history, and if, as is frequently the case, the one account conflicts with the other or with received knowledge on the subject, it must be in the public interest to have government records of the periods in question made freely available for examination now, rather than in 2024. History is far too important for it to be written solely by the politicians involved.

Two examples, amongst many, make the point. Lady Thatcher offers what amounts to an entirely new account of aspects of the Falklands war, based on secret intelligence which 11 years later is still unavailable to the public, in order to justify her decision to sink the *Belgrano* in 1982 (pp 214-5). Such justification is something that, properly, can only be done for her, and can be achieved only if students of her government are given the same access to the evidence that she possessed.

Secondly, much has been made by Lady Thatcher of her anxieties on

Germany. She suggests that these only became serious in 1990, causing her to seek a "slowing down" of unification (p 795) because "by its very nature, Germany is a destabilising force in Europe" (p 791).

This directly contradicts the account provided by Mr Kenneth Baker in his memoirs, *The Turbulent Years*, where he speaks of "improving relations with Germany" in 1990 which had been "denied... by a widespread misconception in [Germany] that the British and Mrs Thatcher were opposed to reunification" (p 348ff). Misconception (Baker)? Or truth (Thatcher)?

About the Falklands, about Germany, about the Thatcher era, we, the people, have an unqualified right to know precisely what happened and what was said by whom at the time. It is an insult to our intelligence — indeed, to our democracy — to have to rely on contradictory accounts from politicians, defending their reputations. The public records for Lady Thatcher's period of office should now, immediately, be placed into the public domain, so that its true history may be composed.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GLEE
(Director of European Studies),
Brunel University,
Department of Government,
Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH.
October 25.

Bid for drugs agency

From Professor Sir William Asscher and others

Sir, The special summit of EC heads of government on October 29 is, we understand, likely to decide on the location of a number of EC institutions, including the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA). We write to underline how much the United Kingdom stands to gain if the EMEA is secured for this country.

We are fortunate to have a strong pharmaceutical industry. In a world market of £80 billion for branded medicines the UK has 3.5 per cent of sales, 5 per cent of production and 8 per cent of worldwide research and development.

This provides the UK with exports worth £3 billion and an export surplus of £1.3 billion. It also provides 87,000 high-quality jobs, of which 18,000 are in research. We must keep our leading position in this sort of research, science and high technology-based industry if we are to retain our place as a prominent industrial nation.

Siting the EMEA here is thus very important to the UK and its pharmaceutical industry. There is, first, the obvious advantage of the extra jobs. Other effects are of much greater significance. Were the EMEA to be sited elsewhere in Europe we would lose investment and jobs in the industry.

Siting the EMEA here will give us

an additional edge in securing and keeping investment. If the US experience when the Food and Drug Administration was located in Washington is anything to go by, the total number of new British jobs is likely to run into thousands.

A recent pharmaceutical industry poll of the top 39 drug companies worldwide showed an overwhelming preference for London as the site of the EMEA.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM ASSCHER,
DAVID BARNES (Zenech),
COLIN DOLLEY (Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London University),
ENNAIS (Secretary of State for Social Services, 1976-9),
TREVOR JONES (Wellcome Foundation),
PAMELA KIRBY (Astra Pharmaceuticals),
VINCENT LAWTON
(Merck, Sharp & Dohme),
TIL MEDINGER
(President-designate, Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry),
MOORE OF LOWER MARSH
(Secretary of State for Social Security, 1987-9),
PETER READ (Roche),
RICHARD SYKES
(Glaxo Group Research),
JOHN VANE
(William Harvey Research Institute),
c/o St George's Hospital
Medical School,
Cranmer Terrace,
Tooting, SW17.
October 28.

Fully prepared

From the Managing Director of Vickers Defence Systems

Sir, With respect to Christopher Lee (letter, October 21), even better qualified men than he have sought to write off weapon systems that later proved essential to Britain's survival.

We have a letter in our archives noting that in 1936 the Master General of the Ordnance, General Sir Hugh Elles (who led the tanks to their first great victory at Cambrai in 1917), had decided that the tank was deficient because it would never be able to outmatch developments in anti-tank weapons.

Fortunately, he changed his mind shortly afterwards and Britain did possess a viable tank force in the second world war. Most recently, the

Gulf war reaffirmed that the tank is the only weapon system in our armed forces' inventory that can take and hold ground from an enemy equipped with tanks.

Interestingly, proposals to dispose of key military resources tend to crop up routinely in a "weak piping time of peace": H. G. Wells wrote off the submarine in 1902 and Marshal Foch said in 1911 that aeroplanes were interesting toys but of no military value.

If anything, the lessons of history should teach us to be sceptical about contemporary "expert opinion", particularly where defence is concerned.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN CROWTHER,
Managing Director,
Vickers Defence Systems,
Scotswood Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne.

Migraine syndrome

From Professor P. J. Roberts

Sir, The underlying causes of migraine attacks are proving elusive although, as Ian Robertson points out in his article of October 12, "So much more than a headache", there is no shortage of suggestions.

These are often seemingly implausible and I was somewhat surprised to find "Chinese restaurant syndrome" raising its head again.

There is general scientific agreement that there is little or no evidence

that this syndrome exists, and certainly not for any involvement of monosodium glutamate. As the British Migraine Association advises, sufferers may discover an emerging pattern of possible triggers by logging everything they do, eat or drink in the days preceding an attack. Only then might it be possible to identify and eliminate what might have caused the attack.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. ROBERTS,
University of Bristol,
Department of Pharmacology,
University Walk, Bristol, Avon.

Commonwealth values

From Sir Richard Luce, Chairman, The Commonwealth Foundation

Sir, Having just returned from the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Cyprus, I am absolutely clear that in recent years the British people have forgotten about the Commonwealth (leading article, October 21). Very few of the younger generation know much about it. The British government gives the impression that it has other preoccupations. That is compounded by the decision to stop supporting the Commonwealth Institute (letters, October 13, 18, 19).

The time has come to reappraise the value of the Commonwealth and to spark the imagination of the younger generation in Britain. The old hang-up about the Empire is more or less over: the squabbles about South Africa and sanctions are ended; the hypocrisy

about standards of democracy and human rights is diminishing.

There are two strong advantages in Britain's membership. First, it costs HMCG very little but gives us a special link with a unique collection of 50 nations. The fact that they make up a quarter of the globe's population, with a total cross-section of culture, religion and standard of development, provides the British with a special insight into a wide range of world problems and a little more influence and support sometimes in crisis. Our Commonwealth link was invaluable following the Argentinian invasion of the Falklands in 1982.

Secondly, there is a vast and unique network of contact between the people of the Commonwealth fostered by the provision of scholarships and fellowships and the work of many Commonwealth professional organisations. Recently representatives from over 500 universities in the Commonwealth were able to meet in Swansea.

Tax measures in the next Budget

From Mr John Horam, MP for Orpington (Conservative)

Sir, Rodney Atkinson is making a good point when he demonstrates (letter, October 25) that removing (or more practically, scaling down) reliefs on mortgage interest and pension fund contributions would yield much more than imposing VAT on fuel, after compensating vulnerable groups.

So would leaving personal allowances at their present level for a further year, lowering their value for higher tax payers as urged by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, or eliminating the tax relief on profit-related pay, which is rapidly turning into a racket.

All of these also avoid two particular disadvantages of VAT on fuel: it hits especially the elderly and the needy and constitutes a very clear-cut extension of the tax base (especially if VAT is extended further in the Budget which takes pressure off restraining the growth in public spending).

This is of course the real problem. Public spending went up by 8 per cent this year and is due to present government plans to rise by 6 per cent next year, and 6 per cent the year after. It is appalling that this should be happening when the private sector has spent the last few years cost-cutting relentlessly.

It is also increasingly apparent that any increase in tax in this Budget should be minimal, if the economy is not to drop back into recession.

The government may feel that to go back on VAT on fuel would demonstrate weakness. But if the overall Budget package is sensible, and addresses the deficit issue firmly, I doubt if this would be the case. I think there would be widespread approval, followed by an improvement in the government's fortunes.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HORAM,
House of Commons,
October 25.

Maturity in politics

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, I read with approval Peter Riddell's article ("They put their careers first", October 25) criticising the perpetual growth of the "political class" which I have always believed was damaging to a democratic and well run country.

Too many people are entering Parliament not to be a good constituency MP or, as a backbench MP certainly ought to be, to check the growing power of the executive. Their main ambition is to join the executive and that can only happen if you vote and act as instructed.

The best advice I had were the words of wisdom passed on to me by my friend Peter Walker and that was to make enough money to be able to be independent before you become an

From Mr David Black

Sir, Your leader, "Budget agenda" (October 15), suggests that the abolition of mortgage tax relief, coupled with a 2 per cent cut in the base rate, would make virtually every homeowner in Britain "better off after the abolition of mortgage relief than before".

Anyone with an existing fixed-rate mortgage — and a sizeable proportion of recent mortgages take this form — would not benefit from a reduction in the base rate and would clearly be worse off.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLACK,
10 Elmtree Green,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
October 16.

From Mr Owen M. Jubb

Sir, In preparing the ground for curbs on the welfare state and review of benefits (report, October 14) Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, compares the situation in our EC partner countries, but he and so many of his predecessors have chosen to ignore how they treat their pensioners without discrimination between the sexes on pension ages.

Moreover, as it seems that state-provided welfare benefits for the elderly are to be cut, state-tolerated benefits such as Peps, company cars, expense accounts and exotic pension and redundancy schemes should be withdrawn from the affluent. They all help to reduce appreciably the revenue from both income tax and national insurance contributions.

Yours faithfully,
O. M. JUBB
(Honorary Chairman, British Pensioners' Action Force),
1 St Anne's Close, Pitville,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 22.

MP. I followed that advice and so became an MP in my 40s and had, at times, a tempestuous relationship with the whips' office, particularly over the notorious poll tax.

I am not certain even now if, had I been younger and my whole future depended upon preferment, I would have been as robust or steadfast.

We must make more room for the over 40s who have experienced the outside world.

The flush of youth has its place but so has middle age and real independence of mind and action.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK
(MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak,
1979-92),
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Sighthill,
West Midlands,
October 25.

Buses to the rescue

From Mr Terence Bendixson

Sir, European cities, with their dense, busy, historic centres, cannot flourish without dependable buses, trams and trains. Yet with notable exceptions such as Manchester's new congestion-free tramway, public transport in Britain's main provincial cities is in decline.

In the West Midlands, for instance, the buses carry seven passengers for every ten they carried in 1986, bus fares have risen at about twice the rate of inflation and car traffic has grown annually at about 10 per cent.

Some of the decline in bus travel is undoubtedly due to the recession but the chief cause is deregulation. No fewer than 61 companies provide a bewildering choice of services.

The buses should continue to be run by private firms but routes, fares, timetables and information should be the responsibility of the local authorities.

Contractors successfully collect rubbish, tend parks and perform many other duties to the specification of city councils. City bus services could be run in the same way.

To do so would be economical and, coupled with widespread priorities for buses over other traffic, start a renaissance in public transport.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE BENDIXSON
(President),
The Pedestrians Association,
126 Aldersgate Street, EC1,
October 23.

Banning the hunt

From Mrs Doreen Cronin

Sir, I proposed the successful members' resolution brought to the 1990 annual general meeting of the National Trust referred to in Simon Jenkins's article ("Persuade, don't outlaw", October 23). It sought only to end the hunting of deer with hounds on National Trust land.

If Simon Jenkins's views had been followed to their logical conclusion we would never have had legislation to ban cock-fighting and badger and bear-baiting.

Two reputable national opinion polls resulted in over 80 per cent of those questioned stating that the trust should honour the successful members' vote. Because it has not done so over 14,000 members have resigned since 1991, citing the hunting issue as the cause. Many more may have allowed their membership to lapse without giving a reason, resulting in large sums being lost to the trust. Mr Jenkins conveniently does not comment upon this.

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN CRONIN,
High Farning, Weacombe Road,
West Quantoxhead,
Nr Taunton, Somerset.

'Feckless' fathers

From Mr Mike Rumble

Sir, MPs are apparently concerned (report, October 27) that the Child Support Agency is chasing middle-class men who are already paying instead of "feckless fathers on council estates". Mr Major, it seems, has a long way to go in persuading other members of his party that we should live in a classless society.

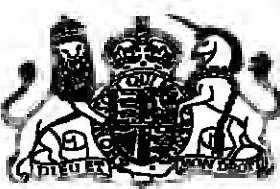
Yours sincerely,
MIKE RUMBLE,
216 Abington Avenue, Northampton,
October 27.

From Mr M. G. Longley

Sir, I was somewhat bemused to read that a spokeswoman of the CSA had referred to an absent father as a "client". I regard my clients as people for whom I act, not against.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LONGLEY,
3 Regis Court, Marylebone, NW1,
October 27.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 28: His Excellency Mr Seydoun Madani Sy and Mrs Sy were received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Senegal in the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Señor Paulo-Torres Flecha De Lima and Señora Flecha de Lima were received in farewell audience by Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Federative Republic of Brazil in the Court of St James's.

His Excellency Señor José Juan de Olibo was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the United Mexican States to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Señor Jorge José de la Cruz (Minister/Deputy Head of Mission), Señor Raúl Ortiz y Ortiz (Minister), Señora Alicia (Military and Air Attache), Vice Admiral Miguel Núñez-Esteban (Naval Attache), Señor Pedro Valdequer (Consul), Communications and Transport), Señor Jorge Gamboa (Counsellor, Information and Travel) and Señor Guillermo Lombra (Counsellor, Consular Affairs).

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr Justice Bell was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the Honour of Knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

Colonel Alan Pemberton was received by The Queen and delivered up his Stick of Office as Lieutenant of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

The following officers of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were received by Her Majesty: Colonel Greville Tunford who delivered up his Stick of Office as Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant and received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Lieutenant, Colonel Shaun Longson who delivered up his Stick of Office as Ensign and received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, Major Charles Marriot who delivered up his Stick of Office as Ensign and received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant, Major Charles Marriot who delivered up his Stick of Office as Ensign and received his Stick of Office upon his appointment as Clerk of the Cheque and Adjutant.

Regiment, received Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Stewart upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Page upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, held a meeting with the representatives of the Action Resource Centre and their new partnership with Business in the Community at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Macmillan Nurse Appeal, and The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, this afternoon attended a Luncheon to mark the appointment of the One Thousandth Macmillan Nurse at the Berkeley Hotel, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Miss Belinda Harley was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Marylebone Cricket Club, later visited the Trust and the Centre for Community Care and Primary Health, 33 Queen Anne Street, London W1.

The Prince of Wales, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, this evening gave a Shakespeare Evening at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 28: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon visited Wimal and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Alan Waterworth).

Her Royal Highness visited St Catherine's Hospital, Birkenhead, and opened the Wimal Heart Support Centre.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon later visited Bellingham Day Centre.

Her Royal Highness then visited St Andrew's Parish Church, Bellingham, in connection with its 90th Anniversary.

Lady Aird was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 28: The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, The Gloucestershire Regiment, today visited the 1st Battalion at Alma Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, North Yorkshire.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 28: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon opened the new premises of Bossey and Hawkes Music Publishers Limited, The Hyde, Edgware Road, London NW9.

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
October 28: Princess Alexandra, attended by Lady Mary Muntford, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from Vienna.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, and the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Reception to mark the efforts of the Metropolitan Police Community Fund Department in support of the Adventure Group of the Association of Drapers' Hall, London EC2.

Mrs Peter Afa was in attendance.

Birthdays today



George Davies, businessman, is 52; actor Richard Dreyfuss is 46

Professor Sir Geoffrey Aldrich, chemical physicist, 65; Sir Derek Bradbeer, former president, Law Society, 62; Dame Anne Bryans, a former trustee, Joint Committee, Order of St John and British Red Cross Society, 84; the Most Rev Joseph Cassidy, Archbishop of Tuam, 60; Miss Susie Cooper, pottery designer, 91; Mr Vivian Ellis, president, Performing Right Society, 89; Admiral Sir Derek Empson, 75; Lady France, headmistress, City of London School for Girls, 53; Sir William Gladstone.

Lord Lieutenant of Croydon, 68; Baroness Gould of Potternewton, 61; Mr Robert Hardy, actor, 68; Sir Edward Howard, former Lord Mayor of London, 78; Mr Michael Jayston, actor, 58; Dr Paul Mellars, president, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 54; Philip Oppenheimer, chairman, The Diamond Trading Company, 82; Mr Jack Shepherd, actor and director, 53; Mr Jon Vickers, opera singer, 67; Mr Galen Weston, vice-chairman, Fortnum and Mason, 53.

Observing the night sky in November

By MICHAEL J HENDRIS
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the middle of the month (at 23h 11m) at the beginning, 22h 10m) in the middle, and 21h 10m) at the end of the month, local mean time. At places away from the Greenwich meridian the Greenwich time which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be turned so that the horizon of the observer is in the position shown by the words around the circle at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Green lines are drawn to assist in locating the stars. Time is expressed in 24-hour notation. It is used in the accompanying notes.

November. The partial eclipse of the Sun on the 13th will not be visible from the British Isles but only from parts of the Southern Ocean, Antarctica, Australasia and southern South America.

The total eclipse of the Moon on the night of the 28th/29th will be visible from the British Isles and much of the area bordering the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The Moon will be in Taurus and well placed for observation at the start of the eclipse with the Moon entering the umbra or darker part of the Earth's shadow at 04h 40m on the morning of the 29th. The eclipse will be total from 06h 02m until 06h 50m, with mid-eclipse at 06h 26m. During this time the Moon will be totally within the umbra.

There are two eclipses in November. The partial eclipse of the Sun on the 13th will not be visible from the British Isles but only from parts of the Southern Ocean, Antarctica, Australasia and southern South America.

planet passes directly between the Earth and the Sun and it is seen as a black disc against the Sun's bright face. Of the major planets, only Mercury and Venus can be seen thus, the planets from Mars to Pluto being at all times outside the Earth's orbit and so never coming between the Earth and Sun. Usually Mercury and Venus pass above or below the Sun as seen from the Earth. The next transit of Mercury visible from the UK will be in May 2003.

Three planets can be seen in the dawn sky during November and, with it still dark at 06h 30m, at a time when many are already up and about. Venus will be just above the bright star Spica on the 1st, passing eastwards (and downwards towards the left) on successive mornings as it moves closer to the Sun. As the Sun is also moving eastwards by a degree each day, Venus will not catch up with it before the end of the year.

Jupiter will be just to the left of Spica throughout the month and Venus will pass a degree to the north of Jupiter on 8th/9th. The very thin waning crescent Moon will be near the two planets and below Spica on the 12th. Mercury will be just to the east (left) of Venus by the 13th and during the remainder of November Mercury and Venus will be on parallel courses as they move closer to the Sun. Venus keeping ahead of Mercury so by the 23rd the planets will be spaced out Venus (-3.8 mag), Mercury (-0.5 mag) and Jupiter (-1.7 mag), Venus being lowest in the sky. Apart from Spica, to the west of the planets by mid-month, there are no bright stars in this part of the sky, so identification of Mercury should not be difficult, though it will require a clear sky as the planets will be near the horizon.

Sometimes the totally eclipsed Moon can be seen a light grey or orange colour while on other occasions the Moon can be so dark as to be almost invisible with the naked eye. Much depends on the cloudiness and dust content of the Earth's atmosphere where the sunlight passes through it before reaching the Moon.

The transit of Mercury on the 6th will end before sunrise in western Europe being visible only from the Indian Ocean and western Pacific areas.

A transit occurs when a

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.A. Burroughs and Miss K.J. Kavan
The engagement is announced between Nigel, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Alfred Burroughs, of Wiltshire, Cheshire, and Katrina, eldest daughter of Mrs Jill Kavan and the late Mr Dudley Kavan, of Weston-Super-Mare, Avon.

Mr J.D. Freeman and Miss D.J. Vaughan-Arbbuckle
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, second son of Mr David Freeman, of Wiltshire, Cheshire, and Mrs Ann Freeman, of Little Neston, Cheshire, and Desmond, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Duncan Vaughan-Arbbuckle, of London.

Mr N.H.W. Gooch and Miss M.S. Laws
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Richard C.W. Gooch, of Dorchester, and Madeline, daughter of the late George W. Laws and of Mrs Sheila Shepherd, of Salisbury.

Mr R.J.R. Housley and Miss H.S. Shillito
The engagement is announced between Richard, second son of Mr and Mrs Michael Housley, of Chigwell, Essex, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Shillito, of Chigwell, Essex.

Mr J.D.H. Jackman and Miss P.L. Beasley
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of Mr and Mrs K.D. Jackman, of Christchurch, Dorset, and Penelope, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G. Beasley, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

Mr P.J.R. Kerry and Miss P.A. Ward
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Sir Michael and Lady Kerry, of Scaynes Hill, Sussex, and Pippa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Ward, of Aldeby, Norfolk.

Dr D.H. McKee and Miss A.P.S. Gordon
The engagement is announced between David, son of the Rev Hugh and Mrs McKee, of Wakefield, Yorkshire, and Arabella, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Strathmore Gordon, of Newport, Essex.

Mr J.P. Ponsbury and Miss S.N. Marshall
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of Sir Ashley and Lady Martha Ponsbury, of Woodstock, Oxfordshire, and Serena, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Marshall, of Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr J.M.E. Yalden and Miss E.A.S. Walker
The engagement is announced between John Michael Bentley, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Yalden, of Godalming, Surrey, and Eva, daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Walker and of Mrs Rita Walker, of Theydon Bois, Essex.

Mr J.R. Carey and Miss A.C. Royle
The marriage took place at Wednesday, October 27, at the Horsham Register Office, between James, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.R. Carey, of Sydney, Australia, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr Peter Royle, of South Chalfont, Essex, and Mrs David Gibbs, of Plummers Plain, Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr M.P.N. Creagh and Miss S. Twyman
The marriage took place on October 23, 1993, at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Winchester, of Michael, son of Colonel and Mrs J.P.N. Creagh, of West Kent, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Twyman, of Bourville, West Midlands. Father Michael Leamy officiated.

The bride was given away by her father and was attended by Katie Shaw and Natasha Creagh. Mr Christopher Ringrose-Vose was best man.

A reception was held in Sparsholt and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr D.C.B. Glencairn Campbell and Mrs L.A. Griffiths
The marriage took place on Friday, October 22, at St Michael's, Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire, of Mr David Glencairn Campbell, of the late Brigadier Walter Glencairn Campbell and the late Lady Muir Mackenzie, and Mrs Lucille Griffiths, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Woodward.

Luncheons

HM Government
Mr Alastair Goodlad, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, in honour of Mr Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana.

Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club
Lady Jenkins was the guest speaker at the autumn luncheon of the Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club held yesterday at the Rembrandt Hotel, Lady Brown, chairman, presided.

The Park Tower Luncheon Club
The Park Tower Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday in Restaurant 101 Knightsbridge at The Sheraton Park Tower Hotel. Mr Derek Poot, General Manager, and Miss Jacqueline McCouat were the hosts and the guests were Mr Stirling Moss, Miss Sarah Kennedy, Miss Sue MacGregor and Mr Neil MacGregor.

Reception
Mrs John Major was host at a reception last night at 10 Downing Street on behalf of the Westminster Medical School Research Trust.

Today's royal engagements
The Queen, as Patron and President of the British Red Cross Society, will address the council of delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, at noon.

The Duchess of Kent as Patron of the York Civic Trust will visit Fairfax House, Castlegate, at 11.00, will open an extension to St Monica's Hospital, Easingwold, at 12.15; will open the South Otterington village primary school, near Northallerton, at 2.15; and will visit the police headquarters at Newby Wiske at 3.05.

Memorial services

Mr Keith Lester
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Keith Lester was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. The Very Rev David Elliott officiated. Miss Susan Danby, Principal of the College of the Royal Academy of Dancing, read the lesson and Mr Peter Wilson, Secretary of the Dance Teachers' Benevolent Fund, read from Keith Lester's poems. Mrs Clare Thomas and Baroness Briggs gave addresses.

The Earl of Westmorland
A Memorial Service for the 15th Earl of Westmorland will be held at the Guards Chapel at 2.30pm on Tuesday, November 2.

Bill Sale
A memorial service for Bill Sale will be held in Canterbury Cathedral, on Friday, November 12, at 3pm.

Sir David Sells
A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Sells will be held at Chelsea Old Church, Old Church Street, London, SW3, at 11.30am on Thursday, November 25, 1993.

Alfred B. Shindler
A Thanksgiving for the life of Alfred B. Shindler, Deputy for the Ward of Billingsgate, will be held on Thursday, November 4, 1993, at Haberdashers', Hall, Stamford Lane, London, EC2, at 10.45am.

Royal Thames Yacht Club

The Duke of York was elected Commodore of the Royal Thames Yacht Club at the annual meeting held yesterday at 60 Knightsbridge. The following have been elected: Vice Commodore, Mr John O. Pennington; Rear Commodore, Mr Francis N. Read and Mr Ross Walker.

Service dinners

Newspaper Makers, Lieutenant-Commanding Officer in Amphibious Warfare Group, Royal Naval Marine Corps, Mr John Barry and Mr Peter Goss.

Advanced Class Dinner Club
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, M.P. was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Advanced Class Dinner Club held last night at the Royal Artillery Officers' Mess, Woolwich. Major-General A.C.P. Stone, president, was in the chair.

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
General Sir John Learmont, Quartermaster General, was the principal guest at a dinner given

Church news

The Rev Canon Colin Bennett, Canon Rectory of Chester Cathedral, diocese of Chester, is to be Suffragan Bishop of Buckingham, diocese of Oxford, succeeding the Rev Simon Burrows who is retiring as from January 31.

Other appointments
The Rev Francis Anderson, episcopal area, now Priest-in-Charge, Lyndhurst (Hampshire), is to be the Rev Malcolm Bridger, Team Rector, Brentford (London); to be Rector, Tidworth, Ludgershall and Farnborough (Salisbury).

The Rev Roger Chamberlain, Assistant Curate, St Stephen, Selby Park, is to be Curate, St Cyrilian, Hay Mills (Bristol).

The Rev Dr Alexander Coker, Assistant Curate, St Luke, Woodside, is to be Curate, St Philip, Chesham Common School (Southwark).

The Rev Anne Dyer, Honorary Deacon, Christ Church, Luton, and Christ the King, Princes Park

to be also part-time Associate Adviser in Evangelism (Rochester).

Resignations and retirements
The Rev Alan Jones, Priest-in-Charge, Finchfield, W. Cornish Hall End (Chesham) to retire as from December 31.

The Rev John Larner, Vicar, Worthingford and Mount Bures w. Little Horsey (Chesham) to retire as from January 31 1994.

The Rev Canon John McDougall, Team Rector, Bride Valley Team Ministry (Salisbury) to retire as from January 31, 1994.

The Rev Fred John Watson, Vicar, St Andrew, Plymouth, w St Peter's Church, to retire as from January 31, 1994.

The Rev Leslie Wilman, Rector, Swanton Morley w Beoley w East Bilecy and Hoe, Rural Dean of Brafley and Elmham, Chaplain RAF Swanton Morley (Norwich) to retire as Rural Dean as from November 30.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Boswell, biographer, Edinburgh, 1740; William Blake, poet, Bristol, 1757; Jean Giraudoux, dramatist, Paris, 1892; Fanny Brice, actress and singer, New York, 1891; Josef Goebbels, Nazi war criminal, Regensburg, 1897.

DEATHS: Sir Walter Raleigh, courtier, adventurer and writer, executed, London, 1618; Edmund Calamy the elder, Puritan preacher, London, 1666; James Shirley, dramatist, London, 1666; Jean le Rond d'Alembert, philosopher, Paris, 1783; John Leach, illustrator, London, 1804; Joseph Pulitzer, newspaper proprietor, Charleston, South Carolina, 1911; Frances Burnett, novelist and dramatist, New York, 1924; King Gustav V of Sweden, reigned 1907-50, Stockholm, 1950; John Braine, novelist, London, 1986; Pietro Annigoni, painter, Florence, 1988.

The Russian archaeologist Peter Kovzov discovered the tomb of Genghis Khan, 1927.

PERSONAL COLUMN

People do not lay to heart the truth that those whom God has chosen will be blessed and mercy and that he comes to the help of his saints. Widows of Solomon 4: 15. (REB)

CLARENCE - On 25th October 1993, to Patricia (née Miller) and Stephen, a son, Alexander William (11 lbs).

DITMAR - On October 22nd, at The Portland Hospital, to Sante (née Overton) and John William, a big boy, 8lb.

BENSON - On October 27th 1993 at Princess Mary Hospital, Newcastle, to Fiona Marie Leonard and Kevin, a son, George Frederick.

FRANCIS - In New York on October 28th, Olivia Catherine Louise, a daughter to Lindsey and Mark and a sister for Isaac.

GLAUVILLE - On 20th October 1993, to Nicola (née Brown) and Charles, a brother for Edward.

KEARNEY-ORR - On 27th October 1993, to a son, Nicholas, a daughter, Nicola, and a son, Nicholas.

LAWSON-TAYNOR - On 27th October 1993, to a son, Emily (née Macdonald), a daughter, Josephine Rose.

MIELVILLE - On October 17th 1993, to Lucia (née Jones) and Alice, a daughter, Sophie Gale Leonard, a sister for Alastair and Anna Claire.

MORLEY - On 20th October 1993, to a daughter, Michelle (née O'Brien) and a son, Nicholas, a daughter, Michelle, a son, Nicholas.

WHEAT - On 28th October, to Jennifer (née Hart) and Adam, a son, Timothy Mizen.

WALKER - On October 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Andrew, a wonderful son, Thomas William.

WILLIAMS - On 26th October at the Edith Cavell Clinic, Bromley, Mary Morgan, daughter to Carol and Sannie Williams, sister to Amelia and Helena.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES
GRAM WALLER-TISSE - On October 29th 1993, at The Bromington Oratory, Watlington, Oxford, 50th.

DEATHS
ANGUS - Peggy, died peacefully surrounded by her family on 28th October 1993, aged 82. She was a devoted mother and a great many people will miss her. Cremation 31st October 1993. Flowers only.

CARLEY - John Dr. Died peacefully at home on Thursday, October 28th 1993, aged 82. He was a devoted husband and father. Cremation 31st October 1993. Flowers only.

GRUB - On October 28th 1993, peacefully at home, 82. He was a devoted husband and father. Cremation 31st October 1993. Flowers only.

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MEMORIAL SERVICES

GILSON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Michael will be held at St Peter's Church, Epsom, Surrey, on Wednesday, 10th November at 2 pm and afterwards at The Peacock Hotel, Rowley, at 7.30 pm. Appreciated if no black attire was worn. Further enquiries to Mrs Thomas Gilson, 100a St. John's Church, Epsom, Surrey, Tel: (0181) 852474.

NIGHT - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of William Murray Knight will be held on Saturday November 13th at 12 noon at Holy Trinity Church, London.

WESTON - A Memorial Service for the 18th Earl of Westmorland will be held at the Guards Chapel at 2.30 pm on Tuesday, November 2nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
ATTACHED Norwegian women's team friendly with and played in the 1993-94 season. Further enquiries to Mrs Thomas Gilson, 100a St. John's Church, Epsom, Surrey, Tel: (0181) 852474.

TULETT & TONYO Inc. have been awarded the contract to provide the catering for the 1993-94 season. Further enquiries to Mrs Thomas Gilson, 100a St. John's Church, Epsom, Surrey, Tel: (0181) 852474.

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FLATS/HOUSE

FLATS/HOUSE - 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

FLATS/HOUSE - 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 6



GATWICK 36-38

Airport on the right flight path



ARTS 39-41

Kate Bush's new album charts her personal tragedy



SPORT 42-48

Woman skipper faces 'mutiny' on the high seas

IDEAS FOR A NEW CENTURY
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THE TIMES

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 1993

GEC acquires wreck of Ferranti for 1p a share

By ANGELA MACKAY

FERRANTI International, the defence electronics business, succumbed to a £10.1 million one-penny-a-share bid from GEC, ending a valiant four-year attempt to revive the group after it was devastated by fraud. Eugene Anderson, Ferranti's chairman, told shareholders that the only alternative to the GEC bid was receivership.

Several companies, including the French group, Thomson-CSF, have been negotiating with Ferranti for more than a year. But the board realised that Ferranti's deteriorating order book could no longer sustain the

company. Orders have shrunk by several million pounds from the £168 million declared at an extraordinary meeting in September, battered by the peace dividend and dwindling credibility.

In September, Mr Anderson said his priority was an equity injection or a strategic partnership. But a veto by Ferranti's banks on increased debt, and shareholder resistance to a rights issue, meant that a knock-down sale of the company was the only alternative.

GEC is offering 1p for each ordinary share and the same to holders of special shares. These were issued in 1990 to hold the

proceeds of litigation commenced to try to recover money lost in the fraud. The bid's success depends on 90 per cent acceptance and the offer is final.

In March, special shares had a face value of 19p after legal recoveries of almost £42 million, but this value could be unlocked only if Ferranti mustered sufficient liquidity and distributable reserves. The company said yesterday that even if it survived, this money would not be available for many years; it suggested that these shareholders, too, should accept GEC's offer.

When about £140 million of debt is included, GEC will pay just over £150

million for Ferranti. Analysts said UK tax losses amounted to more than £100 million, which GEC could use; however, their value would be difficult to realise out. There is also a £106 million pension fund surplus.

GEC, led by Lord Weinstock, bought Ferranti's defence business for £310 million in January 1990. After an accounting dispute, however, the price paid dropped to £270 million.

Ferranti almost collapsed in September 1989 after uncovering a £215 million hole in its assets stemming from a \$1 billion international defence contract fraud masterminded by the company's former deputy

chairman, James Guerin. Mr Guerin, an American who in the early 1970s founded International Signal & Control, a Pennsylvania-based defence contractor, sold his company to Ferranti for £430 million in 1987.

Unknown to Ferranti, Mr Guerin had inflated International Signal's value with bogus contracts. He is now serving a 15-year prison sentence in America for fraud, arms smuggling and racketeering.

Four years ago, Ferranti had 23,000 employees and was Scotland's biggest industrial employer. Today, its workforce totals 3,900.

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

WASHED OUT



ICI says trading remains tough despite an improvement in third-quarter profits inspired by a sales drive in Europe
Page 27, Tempus 29

WASHOUT

Sir Alan Walters, a long-standing critic, believes the ERM will be reorganised next year. Anthony Harris comments
Page 28

DILUTE



General Motors is still in the red, and Volkswagen says that it will cut 30 per cent of its workforce unless costs are cut
Page 26

WATERSHED

The water regulator has discovered huge regional differences in the cost of turning on the tap
Page 26, Pennington 27

Bankers stay with Queens Moat

By MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

QUEENS Moat Hotels, the UK's No. 3 hotel combine, has secured the ongoing support of its bankers, collectively owed more than £1 billion.

Representatives of some 60 banks agreed, at an 'all bank' meeting held yesterday at the City offices of Allen & Overy, the company's solicitors, that "the best way forward" was to "continue to support the group and maintain its stability."

A brief communiqué from Barclays, joint lead bank with the NatWest, stated that the plan presented to the banks demonstrated that Queens Moat "can be reconstructed to give it a viable future" despite the 1992 results and the mid-year figures for 1993 — due to be disclosed today.

The steering committee "recommended approval" of the proposal for "additional time to allow detailed negotiations to be completed with lenders on the final form of the reconstruction." The decision was crucial for Queens Moat, the alternative being the appointment of an administrator or a receiver. Queens Moat's interest payments to the banks have been frozen since April, but the "standstill" agreement was set to expire on Sunday. This will be extended.

Chief executive Andrew Coppel and finance director Andrew Le Poidevin have been engaged in preparing detailed proposals for long term financing. The board is being advised by Morgan Grenfell, while the banks have called in SIC Warburg.

Shareholders were informed this week that an extraordinary general meeting will be held after the AGM 'on or about' November 29 following news of a collapse in the company's net assets to less than half of its called up share capital of £251.5 million.

News that the banks have agreed to provide ongoing support for Queens Moat comes five months after they were presented with accountants Grant Thornton's 276-page investigation into the company. This document, which The Times has seen, makes the following points:

Our assessment of the group's financial structure and short-term cash genera-

tion suggests that the financial viability of the group in its present form is in serious doubt. There are a series of issues which threaten the survival of the group short term.

Throughout our investigation, the absence of consolidated management information has made it extremely difficult to identify trends or to interpret the overall financial position of the group. In addition to there being no consolidated management accounts, the directors have been unable to provide us with detailed working papers which support either the interim announcement of profit before tax of £38.1 million or the full year forecast of profit before tax of some £90 million which was included in the information memorandum dated March 1993 relating to the proposed DM750 million revolving credit facility.

The advantages of supporting the group and considering its proposals will enable lenders to avoid the consequences of a formal insolvency and allow time to assess the merits of the group's proposals compared to insolvency. Lenders would also have the opportunity of improving security. Whilst we consider the long term value of the group's assets may improve by avoiding insolvency, it is possible that the proposals from the group regarding future financing may require lenders to participate in a debt to equity conversion.

The group has expanded rapidly over recent years. This has placed strains on the management of the group with which its systems and resources have not been able to cope. The consolidation process is extremely complex and time consuming and this has contributed to a scarcity of consolidated management information at a group level.

Group net assets have declined by almost £1 billion during 1992. By far the largest element of this results from the inclusion of the group's hotel properties at the draft valuation recently carried out by Weatherall Green & Smith. This resulted in a valuation deficit of in excess of £800 million against 1991 values.



Levene to head new team at revitalised Canary Wharf

By PATRICIA TEHAN AND ROSS TIEMAN

SIR Peter Levene, the former head of procurement at the Ministry of Defence, will today be appointed chairman and chief executive of a new company that will handle the day-to-day running of London's Canary Wharf office and retail development.

He will be joined by Patrick Garner, the former business development director of Trafalgar House Property. Mr Garner, aged 47 and a chartered accountant, will become finance director.

The appointments come as the administrators of the development officially hand over control of the project to its banks. A £1.1 billion rescue of Canary Wharf is expected to be completed in the High Court today.

The hearing will clear the way for John MacGregor, the

transport secretary, to authorise work to begin on the £1.8 billion extension of the London Underground Jubilee Line, which will link Europe's biggest office development to the heart of the capital.

Stephen Adamson, Nigel Hamilton and Alan Bloom, joint administrators of Canary Wharf, won approval from unsecured creditors for company voluntary arrangements of the five main Canary Wharf companies at a meeting last month. They took the proposals to the court this month and approval is likely today.

The 12 banks, which had put £568 million into the development, will henceforth own Canary Wharf. The debt plus accruing interest will be restructured over 14 years, deferring repayment until 2007. The government had re-

fused to proceed on the tube link without a £98 million private sector contribution. The money is being provided by the European Investment Bank in return for a stake in Canary Wharf.

Ten of the original Canary Wharf lenders have agreed to provide additional funding, made up of a £27 million letter of credit as payment to the unsecured creditors under the company voluntary arrangements, £57 million in support of the long-term development of the Canary Wharf project, and a further £300 million to be paid to London Regional Transport over 25 years.

When the court approves the arrangement, the Canary Wharf assets will be transferred to a successor company, Sylvester Investments, run by the banks. Sylvester will set up

a new Canary Wharf management company, with a board headed by Sir Peter, with Mr Garner as finance director.

Sir Peter is also thought likely to continue to run the Docklands Light Railway until a replacement is found. He is also London deputy chairman of Wasserstein Perella.

The banks wanted a property specialist and turned to Mr Garner, who left Trafalgar House Property last month.

The court approval will clear the way for a dividend of up to 15p in the pound to the 1,400 unsecured creditors, many of them contractors. About 130 of the creditors will be asked to provide warranties for past work, for which they will receive an additional 25p in the pound.

London lifeline, page 29

Clinton takes credit for 2.8% growth

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday trumpeted a \$50 billion drop in the federal deficit and a 2.8 per cent growth rate in the third quarter as evidence that lower deficits and interest rates in the US are producing "the beginning of a significant

economic recovery" that can probably endure.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose in response, jumping 35.49 points to 3,700.15 at midday.

The president said he could not promise a full recovery

because of the global economy, but the US was sustaining momentum based on its policies and without much help from overseas, given the slow, to nil, growth in Europe and problems in Japan.

The president claimed that

real results were being seen from his administration's policy during its first nine months of putting a primary focus on improving the economy.

When Mr Clinton took office, the federal deficit was projected at well over \$300 billion for the government's financial year to September 30. Yesterday, the Treasury announced the actual figure was \$255 billion, more than \$50 billion below.

In the third quarter, the gross domestic product expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 per cent. It was the best performance this year, which saw two anaemic quarters of 0.8 per cent and 1.2 per cent, and the strongest since last year's closing quarter of 5.7 per cent. The third quarter could have been even better, 3.4 per cent, but for crop devastation caused by Mid West flooding and drought in the South East.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
	FT-SE 100		DOW JONES		\$369.75 per oz
	3163.0 +8.7		3700.15 +35.49		
Midday trading figure				BRENT CRUDE	
		Dm 2.4945 +0.0088		\$16.30 per barrel (Dec)	
				6.00pm	
		US \$ 1.4785 No change			

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

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Motor industry fights world fall in demand

Ford boom, GM gloom VW threat to 30% of jobs

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN WOLFSBURG

GENERAL Motors yesterday said Ford and Chrysler in the US car industry's drive out of the recession. America's largest carmaker remained in the red for the third quarter while its two rivals more than beat profit forecasts.

On North American car making — where GM lost \$1.7 billion between 1990 and 1992 — losses narrowed for the third quarter from \$1.9 billion to \$1.1 billion and for the first nine months of this year from \$2.8 billion to \$1.4 billion.

In contrast, Chrysler reported second third-quarter profits of \$423 million, almost double analysts' forecasts, and on

Wednesday, Ford shares were at a peak after it bounced back into the black with its best quarter since 1988.

GM ended the nine months in the black only by good performance by its finance, electronics and computer services arms. They helped narrow the third quarter net loss from \$1.1 billion to \$113 million, and for the nine months lifted the company into the black with net profits of \$1.5 billion (\$22.8 billion loss). GM remains confident that its North American car operations can break even by the year end. Jack Smith, GM's chief executive, said: "We face some really tough

issues. We've accomplished a lot but we still have a long way to go."

In Europe, third-quarter profits sank, but market share improved and the near 62 per cent climb to \$422 million in the international profits (including Europe) was boosted by a 34 per cent sales rise in Latin America. GM share of the American market fell 1.3 per cent in the third quarter to 31.2 per cent. Two years ago it was 34.8 per cent. Group sales for the third quarter inched ahead 2 per cent to \$30.19 billion and were 4.3 per cent better for the nine months at \$101 billion.

VOLKSWAGEN, the German car maker blighted by weak sales and heavy losses, threatened to cut its workforce 30 per cent by 1995 unless steps were taken to cut costs.

Peter Hartz, personnel director, said VW had about 31,000 employees more than needed for its anticipated production two years from now. To avoid big layoffs, Herr Hartz wants employees at the six west German plants of Europe's largest car maker to work a four-day, 28.8-hour week from January 1, a 20 per cent cut from the current five-day, 36-hour work week. "We need to make a dramatic

adjustment," Herr Hartz said. "Our task for the coming years will be to master the structural change. It is unavoidable that we reduce our personnel costs." Herr Hartz said Volkswagen realised it would not be able to cut wages by a fifth if a four-day week was introduced. But the company was still banking on considerable savings.

"Adjustments are urgently needed," he said. "We are standing before the question of either having massive layoffs or finding an alternative solution. I am confident we will be able to find a solution." VW's works council gave a

cautious welcome to the idea of reduced hours instead of layoffs but said negotiations on the plan were just starting and it would not be rushed to agree. Volkswagen is scheduled to start 1994 with 103,000 employees, down from 125,000 in mid-1992.

Herr Hartz said the workforce needs to be trimmed to just under 72,000 by the end of 1995 unless reduced hours are accepted. Volkswagen made a group net loss of DM1.6 billion in the first half of 1993. It expects sales of Volkswagen cars to fall to 1.4 million this year and next from 1.88 million in 1992.

Water customers face wide price variations

BY CARL MORTISHED

OFWAT, the water industry watchdog, disclosed huge differences in unit costs to customers of turning on the tap or emptying the bath in different areas of the country. Ofwat's annual report, *The cost of water delivered and sewage collected*, reveals that the average cost of water for customers in England and Wales rose from 52p to 54p per cubic metre last year. The unit cost of sewage, measured for the first time, was 68p per m³.

The report shows wide price discrepancies across the country: Hartlepool delivers the cheapest water, at 37p per m³, and Thames ranks close behind at 44p; but consumers of South East and Tendring Hundred are paying 97p and

92p per m³, respectively. Sewage costs were highest for South West Water customers, who paid 107p per cubic metre collected. Thames customers paid only 50p.

Ofwat will use the statistics as a measure of efficiency in the current review of price limits, which is aimed at setting a ceiling on increases in water bills for the ten years from April 1995.

Shares in the water companies dipped, on renewed concerns that Ofwat will demand more efficiency savings from companies when the "K" factor, a percentage increase over the retail price index, is set next year.

Unit water costs may bear little relation to water bills

paid by consumers, as figures are affected by quantities of water delivered. For example, Tendring Hundred's high unit cost reflects its low volumes.

Ian Byatt, director-general of Ofwat, said the figures provided valuable information on company performance. "At the periodic review, the onus of proof will be on high-cost companies to explain their costs," he said.

The report breaks down the unit cost of water into operational cost, depreciation and return on capital, which is defined as profit before interest. The report shows striking variations among unit profits earned by companies from supplying water; they range from as little as 5p per m³ at

Northumbrian to 36p at Tendring Hundred.

Mr Byatt emphasised that cost differences between companies did not necessarily mean differences in efficiency. "Unit costs can sometimes vary for reasons beyond companies' control," he said.

These include geography, investment levels and individual companies' financial circumstances. High unit costs and a high unit return on capital may be required to finance expenditure to comply with environmental legislation. The high cost of sewage collection at South West Water is partly due to heavy environmental expenditure.

Pennington, page 27

WATER DELIVERED UNIT COSTS 1992-3

(All figures in pence per cubic metre)

	Cost to customers	Cost of operations	Capital maintenance	Return on capital
Thames	44	29	6	9
Southern	49	30	12	6
Northumbrian	49	33	10	5
Sewer Trent	52	27	10	14
Wessex	56	30	15	11
Yorkshire	61	29	19	12
South West	62	36	10	15
Dwr Cymru	67	39	12	16
Anglian	69	35	17	18
South East	97	47	29	22

SEWAGE COLLECTED UNIT COSTS 1992-3

(All figures in pence per cubic metre)

	Cost to customers	Cost of operations	Capital maintenance	Return on capital
Thames	51	23	11	17
Northumbrian	64	28	17	19
Yorkshire	66	26	20	20
Sewer Trent	69	24	22	23
North West	71	24	17	29
Southern	73	31	28	15
Dwr Cymru	74	27	19	27
Wessex	75	29	22	24
Anglian	87	35	16	36
South West	107	35	12	60



Ian Byatt said high costs would have to be explained

Germans buy EBRD building

BY CARL MORTISHED

THE City building that cost Jacques Attali his job as head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been sold to a German institutional fund, Deutsche Grundbesitz Investmentgesellschaft (DGI), for £170 million.

DGI has acquired the long leasehold interest in One Exchange Square, at 175 Bishopsgate, from Broadgate Properties, a joint venture between Stanhope Properties and the collapsed Rosehaugh property company.

The EBRD is paying an annual rent of £14.4 million for the 360,000 sq ft of offices. However, British Rail, the freehold owner of the site, is entitled to 6 per cent of the rent roll. That will leave DGI with a net income of £13.5 million and an investment yield of just under 8 per cent.

LEP, the freight-forwarding and property company, expects substantial interest from German funds in Swiss Bank House, the London headquarters of Swiss Bank Corporation near St Paul's Cathedral. LEP is selling the property to cut debts.

RJB to save Scottish mine co-op

By Ross Tienan

Industrial correspondent RJB Mining is making a recommended offer for Monktonhall Mineworkers, saving the jobs of 180 Scottish miners and providing a chance to recoup some of the £1.8 million they put into the co-operative.

The Nottinghamshire mining group plans to invest £3 million to open a second face at the Monktonhall colliery, south of Edinburgh. Richard Budge, RJB's chief executive, said that it believed that extra investment would "enable Monktonhall to produce coal at competitive prices".

Monktonhall, shut by British Coal in the mid-1980s, was re-opened by the co-operative last year. The miners each put in £10,000. In spite of a contract to provide coal for electricity generation, they lacked capital to develop the mine.

RJB will pay £1,000 per £10,000 share, valuing the pit at £167,000. Shareholders working in it will receive a £3,000 bonus if production targets are met next year and £1,000 if 1995 targets are met. With £2,250 of income tax relief allowed for the share loss, each miner's capital loss will be held to £2,750 if all goes to plan.

Wellcome nurses bruised share price

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

SHARES in Wellcome, the drugs group, fell sharply yesterday as the City took fright at the slowdown in growth of Retrovir, the group's HIV treatment. The share price dropped 91p to 712p yesterday, against a 982p high for the year.

Sales of Retrovir rose to £248 million, from £213 million, for the year to August 31. However, excluding currency movements, underlying sales growth slipped to just 3 per cent, hit by the preliminary results from the Anglo-French Concorde trial in April, which cast doubt over the efficacy of the treatment.

John Robb, chairman and chief executive, said the group faced "a long haul" to turn Retrovir round after the adverse publicity, but he



Robb: long haul

stressed that Concorde's final report had yet to be completed and other subsequent studies had taken a more positive view towards the drug. Trevor Jones, Wellcome's research director, criticised the "casual" way in which the preliminary

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Forced redundancies due at Smithkline

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American healthcare group, refused to rule out compulsory redundancies among the 2,000 staff employed in its research and development operations after announcing plans to consolidate its R&D facilities. The group is to slim down its seven R&D facilities to three after buying a 40-acre site in Harlow, Essex, adjacent to one of its existing operations. The R&D sites at Brockham Park, Great Burgh, Reigate in Surrey and Worthing, West Sussex, will move to Harlow, while those at Tonbridge, Kent, and The Frythe will continue to operate separately. About 1,000 staff will be forced to move.

An SB spokesman said the plan would produce annual cost savings of "several million pounds". Some compulsory redundancies are expected, but the group would not be drawn on numbers. The development of the Harlow site, the former maritime headquarters of BP, will cost more than £200 million. Dr George Poste, chairman of R&D Pharmaceuticals, said it showed SB's commitment "to sustain a major R&D effort in the UK". The consolidation is expected to be completed by 1997.

Qantas in the red

QANTAS, the Australian airline 25 per cent owned by British Airways, said it expects to return to profit this financial year in spite of falling A\$377.2 million (£170 million) into the red in the year to June 30. Cary Pemberton, chairman, said depressed markets had cut profitability, but that trading had improved in the current financial year. Asked whether Qantas would return to profit this year, he said: "We're in profit now." Profit for 1992-3, after interest costs, was A\$32.9 million, against A\$102.6 million. The loss, after last-time profit of A\$137.3 million, came after a A\$446.4 million charge for accountancy changes and one-off costs. *Tempos, page 29*

Dividends suspended

NATIONAL Medical Enterprises, the Los Angeles-based hospital management group that owns 42 per cent of Westminster Health Care Holdings, Britain's largest nursing home concern, yesterday suspended all dividend payments and gave warning of a sizable charge against profits in its second quarter, which ends next month. The group is under investigation from the FBI and earlier this month set aside \$250 million to settle more than 100 civil fraud and malpractice legal actions. As a result, National Medical made a \$40 million loss in its first quarter which ended on August 31, instead of a \$120 million profit.

Taxi ride to profit

A REBOUND in taxi manufacturing put Manganese Bronze Holdings back into profit in the year to July 31. The shares rose by 20p, to 117p, boosting the group's market capitalisation by more than a fifth, to £19.3 million. Manganese, other activities of which include metal powders and precision components, said taxi sales were significantly better than a year ago; it had raised weekly production from 32 to 36 vehicles. Peak production was 70 black cabs a week in the late 1980s. Pre-tax profit of £1.5 million compares with a loss of £2.4 million last time. A final dividend of 2p makes a total of 2.5p (1p).

Regal Hotels cut loss

REGAL, the USM-quoted hotel group that underwent a financial reconstruction last December, accompanied reduced interim losses with news that it plans to accelerate its acquisition programme in the second half. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £403,000 in the six months to July 4, against a not strictly comparable taxable deficit of £663,000 last time. The pre-tax loss on continuing activities was £181,000. Turnover stood at £1.23 million (£1.5 million). An extraordinary gain of £1.35 million helped Regal to a retained profit of £944,000. The loss per share was 0.17p (6.2p). There is again no interim dividend.

Lloyd's fund complete

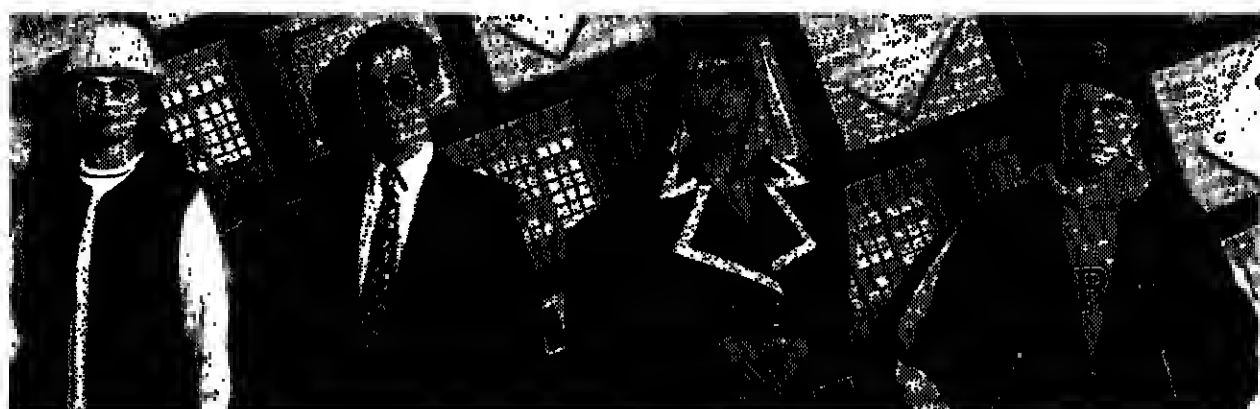
HISCOX Select Insurance Fund, which counts Robert Hiscox, deputy chairman of Lloyd's, among its directors, has become the first of the new Lloyd's corporate capital trusts to raise its full quota of funds. Net proceeds of £28.9 million have been raised through a placing by Charterhouse Tilney Securities to support an overall premium limit of £50 million in 1994. Roberts & Hiscox, a members' agency, will advise the fund. Morgan Grenfell International Funds Management has been appointed investment manager. Dealings begin on November 8.

BCCI compensation plea

THE Western Isles Council, which lost £24 million in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in 1991, yesterday called on the government to provide compensation to creditors. The call follows the upholding, on Wednesday, by the Luxembourg appeals court of an appeal by three creditors against a \$1.7 billion compensation plan from the bank's majority shareholders, the Abu Dhabi authorities. The plan had been negotiated by BCCI's liquidators and Abu Dhabi officials. The liquidators say that it could now be up to ten years before any payment is made.

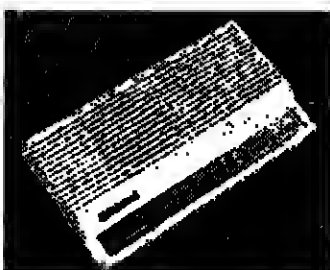
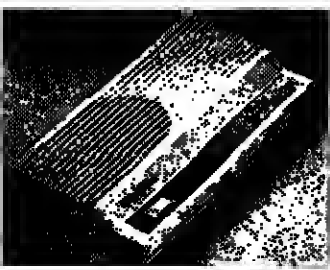
Ramco's discovery hope

RAMCO Oil Services, the Aberdeen company with a small stake in an oil and gas discovery in Azerbaijan, says that progress is being made towards a contract between the former Soviet republic and a Western consortium, including Ramco and BP, wishing to exploit an estimated 4 billion barrels. Ramco, whose main work involves maintaining drilling gear and coating pipelines, lifted pre-tax profit 18.8 per cent, to £297,000, in the half year to end-June, on reduced turnover of £2.57 million (after £2.87 million). Earnings rise to 1.27p a share (0.95p). There is again no interim dividend.



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حکومت الاصل

Plenty of other EC agencies left for London Berlin stages the real Euro-summit Ofwat should encourage mergers

Come to Britain — we're cheap

RATHER tactless timing, some may think, for German investors to buy the headquarters of the European Bank in London yesterday. Today, the German government will be moving might and main at the EC summit in Brussels to make sure there are no last minute hitches in its campaign to site the European Monetary Institute, precursor to the EC central bank, in Frankfurt.

Rather, it shows what a good place London is at the moment to house EC institutions, precisely because property is so cheap. The German fund is paying just £170 million for the building on which Jacques Attali and his friends lavished £55 million, an enormous commitment that is likely to keep this enviable blue chip tenant securely in place. Yet this prime property investment will yield its new owners about 8 per cent in sterling, a higher prospective return than investors can obtain on virtually any decent security if inflation is above zero.

Sadly, the British government has expended far too much political energy in Europe in an attempt to bring the central bank surrogate to the City. The practical argument is overwhelming for siting the bank at the centre of international financial markets rather than at the other end of a long-distance

telephone. The political battle was surely irretrievably lost when Britain insisted on distancing itself from the single currency the new institution would be set up to run. Britain is left with nothing but a residual hope that last minute fears of German financial dominance might upset Helmut Kohl's well-laid plans.

How much better if we had bowed to reality and gone much harder for other European goodies. No less than eight such prizes might be allocated at the EC summit if the Belgians have done their round-the-world capitals diplomacy well. The best available prize for London, and our second choice, would be the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, for approval of new drugs. Britain has far greater international status in pharmaceuticals than in banking. As a letter to *The Times* from many closely linked to the industry points out (Page 21) 8 per cent of world research and development spending takes place in Britain, helping to explain the success of our leading firms in new treatments, and

the industry worldwide wants London to host the EMEA. That looks the best bet for Cabinet efforts in Brussels today. In the long run, the environmental agency should prove the biggest prize. Apart from that one year after the Greens did well in the European elections, however, Whitehall's main interest has been to attack EC environment initiatives. Much the same story as on European monetary initiatives, leading, unfortunately to much the same result.

Offstage alarms

ASIDE from sharing out the Euro-goodies, the summit seems designed to avoid the touchier issues arising from the Maastricht treaty, which is due to come into effect, ten months late, on Monday. If Economic and Monetary Union, the centrepiece of that treaty, were only ten months behind schedule it would be a miracle. As Andrew Britton of the National Institute argued at a more academic



meeting yesterday, the difficulties of moving haltingly through semi-fixed to fixed exchange rates and thence to a single currency are so daunting that they could be sustained only by overwhelming political will. As if by telepathy, Erik Hoffmeyer, governor of the Danish central bank, was simultaneously telling a conference in Copenhagen that the political will needed even to resurrect the old continental ERM was notably absent.

Perhaps he was premature, more's the pity. While the Belgians will put off the EC's plan for economic recovery until the next summit in December — presumably because there is no such plan — Germany and

France are hoping to by-pass this process altogether off-stage.

Remember when the Germans cancelled a visit to France, and the Bundesbank recoiled in horror, because the French economics minister announced in advance that it was to agree a joint strategy for growth. Suddenly this bilateral initiative has been resurrected. A plan for economic convergence of France and Germany will be unveiled, the French promise, after a joint meeting in Berlin on Tuesday. Like as not, it will be linked to a programme to get the ERM back on track, perhaps on the Giscard d'Estaing formula of reconstructing 6 per cent bands in the new year and getting back to 2½ per cent a year later.

If citizens of the two states were asked for their order of priorities, it is a fair bet that they would put recovery ahead of convergence — as would frustrated British exporters. Yet this does not seem to be on the table. Edouard Balladur is still taking the unreconstructed line the British government briefly took just after last year's devaluation. Although the currencies are, in

effect, freely floating, M. Balladur argues that any faster cuts in French interest rates would undermine the franc and force rates back up again. In other words, he still insists that the speculators, who sold the franc precisely because the French economy needed, and was ready for, a monetary stimulus, were wrong. Sounds more a case of political won't.

Water, but not at any price

THE chief reason for stopping water suppliers taking each other over was for Ian Byatt, the industry's financial regulator, to compare their performance as a surrogate for competition. He could then set prices obliging all to be as efficient as the best. If that concept has any reality, the latest annual cost comparisons published by Ofwat ought to play a significant role in next year's price-setting review.

Small water-only companies occupy most of the extremes. Hartlepool, for instance, has little to fear since it was picked out for

praise in Ofwat's recent review of service, as well as providing the cheapest water on the artificial measure of cost per cubic metre — not necessarily the same as the average bills unmeasured users pay. At the other extreme, the French-owned Tending Hundred and South East water companies, whose overall costs are 2½ times as high, will have some explaining to do since they have relatively high operating costs and leakage, as well as heavy investment commitments.

Among the big privatised groups, differences are smaller. Most are explained by rainfall, terrain and the rate of investment needed to meet standards. High-cost South West has already been through the mill to have higher price limits agreed. Even so, Northumbrian's long tradition for efficiency still shows and some companies' preference for cheap and cheerful investment is paying off, providing lessons for others.

Paradoxically, comparisons show that a few of the smaller suppliers really ought to be taken over by the neighbouring privatised water and sewage group for the sake of customers' pockets. Mr Byatt could encourage this by setting prices that take account of what the bigger neighbour would need to charge, but it would take a brave regulator to force mergers.

ICI forges ahead after European sales drive

By NEIL BENNETT

AN AGGRESSIVE sales drive into continental Europe, ongoing rationalisation and the continuing benefits of sterling's devaluation helped Imperial Chemical Industries stage a strong recovery in the third quarter of the year, the first full quarter since the group's demerger from Zeneca. Pre-tax profits leapt from £22 million to £73 million.

Despite the improvement, Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, said that ICI's prices remain under pressure in all areas. "Although we are seeing a steady but unexciting recovery in the United States, difficult trading conditions continue in continental European markets," he said.

Profits in the third quarter were higher than most City forecasts, and the shares rose 13p to 718p. Profits for the first nine months were £240 million, 43 per cent higher than the same period in 1992.

In the nine months, ICI increased turnover by 12 per cent to £6.35 billion. Currency benefits have accounted for 10 percentage points of the rise, but 3 percentage points have been achieved through vol-

ume gains, even though many of the group's chemical and materials markets have been flat or declining. The rise in volumes, however, has been partly offset by a 1 percentage point slide in prices, although this was smaller than expected and could be a sign that prices for industrial chemicals are finally bottoming out.

A number of ICI's new plants and products are also beginning to contribute profits. The group had a full quarter's contribution from its new Taiwan PTA plant which is used for polyester, while demand for Klean, ICI's CRCs replacement, is growing in Europe and the US.

The biggest turnaround in the third quarter occurred in the materials division, which reported a £3 million profit compared with a £9 million loss last time. The materials division has undergone much of the group's rationalisation and the benefits are coming through. The recent acquisition of Dupont's acrylics business also improved the division's performance.

The paints division also staged a third quarter recovery, increasing its profits by £1 million to £35 million. Alan Spall, ICI's financial controller, said demand was recovering in the decorative market, but price cutting was still rife. "The consumer is only coming out of the trenches when there is a special offer. The UK economy may be off the bottom, but this is a fairly joyless recovery," he said.

Over the past year ICI has used its currency advantage in continental Europe to step up its sales drive, and the figures show the effect of the new contracts it has been winning, with sales volumes rising against a falling market.



Sir Denys: price pressure

Tempus, page 29

Gerrard & National profit falls by 25%

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PROFITS of Gerrard & National, the financial group, fell by more than a quarter, to £10.42 million, in the half year to October 5 after a collapse in the profit of discount house operations. The decline was greater than expected, with City analysts looking for profits of about £13 million. This is the first time Gerrard has released interim figures, which made it difficult for analysts to make a forecast.

The interim dividend is held at 6p after earnings of 14.6p, down from 22.2p.

Profits at the discount house fell by 90 per cent, to £500,000, reflecting, in part, bumper profits in the previous year from the European exchange-rate mechanism. "With no movements in official interest rates, there have been few clear trading opportunities, whereas in the six months to

October 5, 1992, trading benefited from large profits following the UK's exit from the ERM," the company said.

Pre-tax profits from the trading division, which includes the discount house, fell by £5.6 million, to £2.5 million. Profits from the broking division rose by £1.6 million, to £7.9 million, aided by a 53.9 per cent jump in profit, to £4.7 million, by GNI Holdings, its futures business. Gerrard & National said that broking profits tend to be evenly distributed between the halves of the year, but the timing of trading profit is uncertain.

Philip Gibbs, an analyst at BZW, cut his forecast for full-year pre-tax profits to £23 million, from £26 million, against a reported £25.2 million last time.

Tempus, page 27

Get fired once a week.

The Economist

Building an underground lifeline for the economy

First contracts for the £1.8 billion extension to the Jubilee Line are set to be signed within days. Ross Tieman counts the blessings for industry

On the third floor of the Science Museum in London, beyond the 9th replicas of steamships from bygone days, lies a model of the London docks. For 25 miles, the model shows, there are basins and wharves, cranes and warehouses alongside the London River.

And so it was, 40 years ago. Today, the ships unload their containers downriver at Tilbury. The Docklands are a patchwork of renovation, renewal, and dereliction. The scale and extent of blight and contaminated land rivals that in Britain's northern or Midlands industrial heartland.

A laudable government-inspired effort to revive parts of the area, launched by Baroness Thatcher during the earliest years of her administration, brought billions of pounds flowing eastwards into new offices, printing plants and supermarkets. Warehouses became restaurants and apartments for style-conscious City high-earners.

But since the 1980s' bubble burst, this higgledy-piggledy mixture of 19th century and high-tech architecture, of pastiche and functionality, has acquired a forlorn air. Tourists wander among the half-empty buildings, gawping at the inspiration, marvelling at the folly.

How else can anyone term the collective idiosyncrasy of developers who invested so much money in inaccessible projects and a government that failed to make transport provision? Improvements to the Docklands light railway and a belated race to build roads have come too late to restore the area's tarnished reputation for being hopelessly difficult to reach. The Jubilee Line Extension (JLE) of the London Underground should change all that.

A farmer in Fife might scoff at the suggestion that a £1.8 billion Tube line is anything but a waste of money to the sole benefit of feather-bedded Londoners and hare-brained property developers. But the Jubilee extension is important to the entire British economy, and for three reasons.

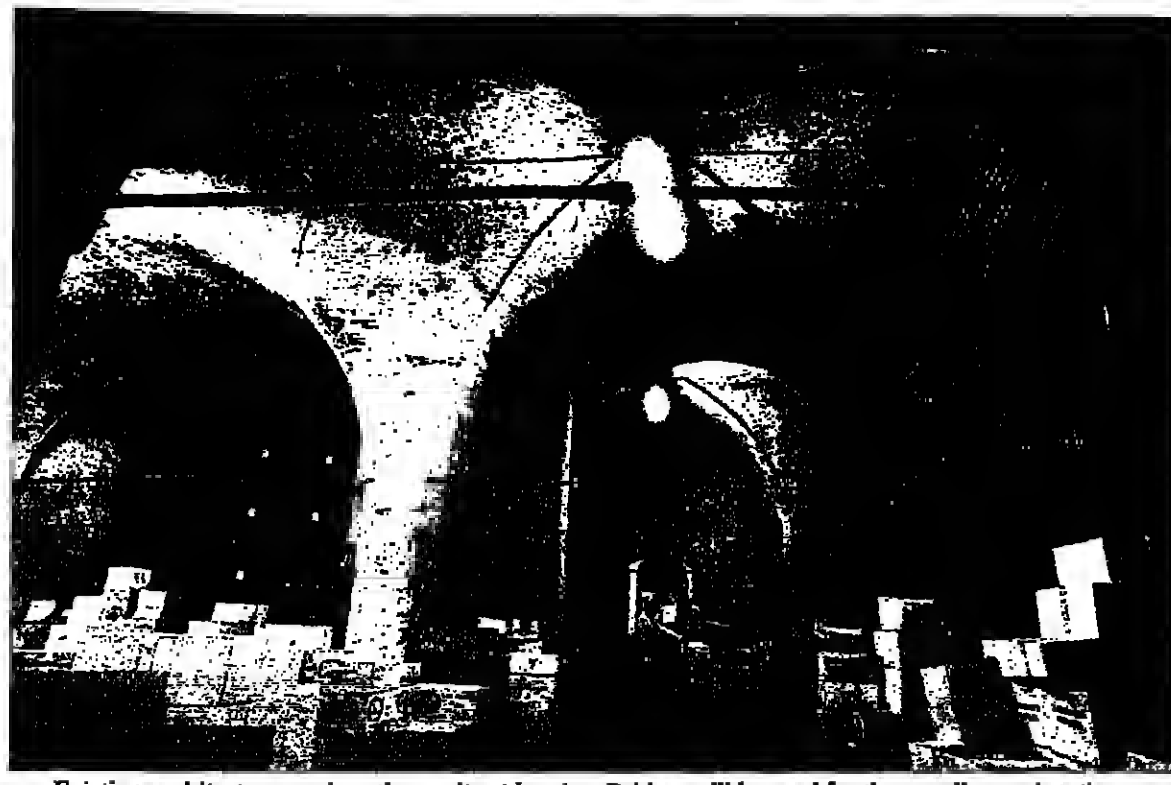
First, after years of sitting on its hands, the government has been steam-rollered into investing in a transport link that London desperately needs. At the same time, its policy of pinning public infrastructure projects to private sector contributions, attributed to Cecil Parkinson and Michael Portillo, has been shown up as absurd and unworkable.

Work was to have started on the Jubilee extension more than 18 months ago. But ministers refused to authorise the project without the £400 million contribution promised by Olympia & York, the collapsed developer of Canary Wharf.

The emergence of O&Y from receivership will be the trigger for today's approval for work to begin. But the delay will cost the taxpayer more than £300 million in additional charges and rising construction costs, plus the huge, but unquantifiable loss from the delay in delivering the economic regeneration that will ensue.

To cap it all, the much-vaunted £400 million contribution is a chimera. O&Y's bankers will make an upfront payment of £98 million, with the rest to follow over 25 years. If inflation runs to trend, the total contribution will be worth little more than £160 million.

So much for policy. What about



Existing architecture, such as the vaults at London Bridge, will be used for the new line and stations

Britain's job-starved construction industry? Joe Dwyer, chief executive of Wimpey, said the go-ahead would be "excellent news" for all concerned. "The Jubilee line extension will not only provide an instant workload, but will also act as a catalyst for other development work in that part of London." But he also counselled against undue euphoria. The construction industry has lost 600,000 jobs

civil engineering by 3 per cent over the years to completion in 1997. It will also help fill gaps in the workload of the railway equipment industry, exacerbated by the hiatus surrounding privatisation of British rail, which threaten the survival of some equipment manufacturers. Even for those who know London well, it is hard to picture the project in the round, which starts at Green Park, on the existing Jubilee Line, and eventually comes back round into Canning Town, West Ham and Stratford, the forgotten East End suburb apparently destined to become a hub for Britain's high-speed rail network in the 21st century. The new line will be just ten

'The Jubilee extension will also act as a catalyst for other development'

"A lot of big contracts are dying out," he said. We need more to replace them. Big contracts are the lifeblood of our industry." The Jubilee project, to be completed in just 4½ years, will create work for 20,000 people in the construction, materials and equipment industries. More than 4,000 jobs will be provided on its construction sites. In total, it will bolster the workload of UK

miles long, of which three quarters will be underground. Up to 36 trains an hour will run in each direction. For the first time, Londoners will enjoy the protection of platform-edge doors, a safety feature with which travellers to Singapore will be familiar, as well as a metro route that wheelchair-bound passengers can use. For this will be Britain's first quiet-

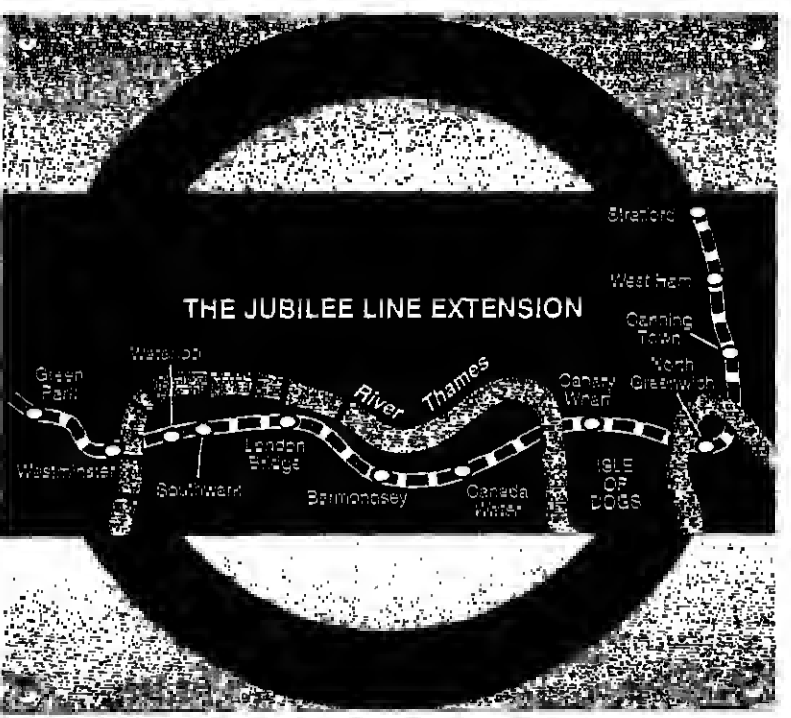
running modern metro, with energy-saving track upswings to stations of modern, spacious design equipped with a total of 115 escalators, almost doubling the numbers now working on the underground. There will be 11 stations, of which seven will be completely new.

The contract has been parcelled up into stations and track sections, bids examined, and many letters of intent signed. A Balfour Beatty/Amec consortium has the £100 million contract to tunnel from Green Park to Waterloo and provide stations at Westminster and Waterloo. For another £100 million, Costain/Taylor Woodrow, will build the new station at London Bridge. Wimpey will build a £20 million station at Canary Wharf, and Tarmac/Bachy the £50 million Canary Wharf station. Laing will build the £20 million depot at Stratford Market, while Sir Robert McAlpine will work with Wayss & Freytag and Bachy to tunnel from Canary Wharf to Canning Town, and build the underground "box" for a projected station at North Greenwich. Overseas contractors have also gained a good chunk of the work.

The order to supply the 59 six-car train sets will almost certainly go to GEC-Alsthom. Worth about £300 million, the vehicles are likely to be assembled at the Metro-Cammell works in Birmingham, which feared it would run out of orders next year.

The third main benefit of the extension will be to unlock the huge sums invested in Docklands. At the same time, it should provide a big lift to the depressed economies of south and east London. The Jubilee extension will link the East End, Docklands, "south of the river" and the West End. Bermondsey could become as hip as Battersea, with property values set to rise.

At the other extreme is the 296-acre former gasworks site in north Greenwich. Now a polluted wasteland, British Gas has prepared a £1 billion plan to clean it up and redevelop it with 5,500 homes, shops and industrial units, providing 3,500 jobs, a 40-acre park and a school. Whether this will happen is open to speculation. Unfortunately, the government has still not learned the lesson of Canary Wharf. Ministers are demanding a £25 million contribution from British Gas before they authorise completion of the North Greenwich station.



THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dab behind the ears for Yves

YVES Saint Laurent, that doughty French couturier, is discovering to his cost that oil and perfume do not mix. On the initiative of the French Stock Exchange Commission, a Paris prosecutor is stepping up an investigation into a transaction in Switzerland in the summer of 1992, in which St Laurent and his original backer Pierre Berge, sold 3 per cent of the House of St Laurent — just weeks before the fashion and perfume house unveiled its sparkling interim results. In a separate issue, a court in Paris yesterday ruled that St Laurent should not have persisted this year in marketing a perfume called Champagne because the name is protected — despite ample warnings to this effect from the jealously possessive growers in Epernay. Given the vast quantity of champagne-smelling perfume already produced, an appeal by St Laurent seems certain. It is all a little embarrassing for Elf-Aquitaine, the oil-based French group that is soon to be privatised under the government's sell-off plans. Elf-Aquitaine acquired the House of St

Laurent late last year through a deal by Elf-Sanofi, its pharmaceutical and health products arm.

Big Bangers

REMEMBER the heady days when dickets for that annual City shindig, the Big Bang Ball, were changing hands at up to £120 against a face value of £3? Well, the good times are back. Some 3,000 City slickers are due at the Café Royal, central London, tonight for the 7th Big Bang Ball: tickets for which are being traded for £50-£60 each. "We have had to turn hundreds of people away," says Oliver

Baxter, the organiser. Rejected applicants are being offered £3 off tickets for the Valentine Ball in February.

Sotheby's man

LORD Camoys, chairman of Barclays de Zoete Wedd Holdings, has joined Sotheby's and will become deputy chairman of its main board on April 1. He fills a new post created by Alfred Taubman, chairman of Sotheby's Holdings Inc, who said Lord Camoys, a leading figure in the City, would advise the main board "as well as our European management." The peer has a close interest in art and heritage

matters, having saved Stonor Park, Oxfordshire, a famous historic house, by buying it from his mother who had intended to sell the property on the open market in the 1970s. He also bought back many pieces of furniture, reinstating them in the property before opening it successfully to the public. Taubman also announced that Lord Gowrie, chairman of Sotheby's Europe for the past seven years, has asked to step down from January 1. He will remain on the main board and will undertake what the company described as "special assignments."

Gas reading

CEDRIC Brown, chief executive of British Gas, is looking forward to signing a contract in December to take over the Karachaganak gas field in Kazakhstan, for the next 40 years. A modernisation programme, guided by 270 engineers from Britain, will increase energy production from the field, and hopefully contribute to the prosperity and political stability in the region. But the framework of operations there is very different to that to which British Gas is accustomed in Britain. Roger

Spiller, an officer of the MSF technical union who has just returned from talks with gas worker in Kazakhstan, reports: "In Russia, the unions provide full-time safety officers, paid by the state, with the power to recommend changes to the oil company and institute daily fines if the company does not comply." Gently does it, Mr Brown.

Depression

SIR Richard Greenbury, chairman of Marks and Spencer, joins Archie Hamilton, MP, and others tomorrow at a one-day conference to mark the 40th anniversary of the Samaritans, founded in central London all those years ago. Coffee, at 11am, will be preceded by Depression (a video, not a workshop) at 10.30. There will be more Depression at 3.30. Anyone who wants to attend should telephone Tracey Harrison, who can be reached on 071-439 1406.

ILL-timed competition in the latest edition of Moneywise, a monthly consumer magazine. First prize is a free trip for two to that tolerant, fun-loving nation... Egypt.

JON ASHWORTH

TEMPUS

Imperial standard

SIR Denys Henderson may choose to be downbeat about economic conditions a month before the Budget, but there was a whiff of spring in ICI's third quarter results. Until now, most of the group's profit recovery has been driven by the translation effect after sterling's devaluation, offset by price falls. But in the nine month figures the fall in chemical prices has shrunk to 1 per cent, suggesting a pick-up in some areas.

If prices have indeed bottomed out, it could not have come at a better time for ICI since this is the last quarter that will carry such dramatic currency benefits. Next year, ICI's comparative figures will show a truer picture of the group's underlying performance, which has been solid rather than scintillating in 1993. ICI has made the most of sterling's devaluation. The growth of its sales in

continental Europe in a static or declining market show it has pitched for business aggressively in its materials and industrial chemicals divisions. These additional contracts further enhance the group's gearing towards even a slight improvement in volumes and prices. This gearing can be seen in the sudden recovery in the paints division's fortunes. A mild upturn in the decorative market has reversed an 18 per cent fall in trading profits at half way into a 3 per cent rise in the third quarter. Even without much help from the market, ICI looks capable of delivering £500 million next year after a further year of rationalisation, and a stronger contribution from high margins products like Klea, the CFC alternative. Even then the p/e ratio is still 18 so investors have to look to 1995 to see real value in the shares.

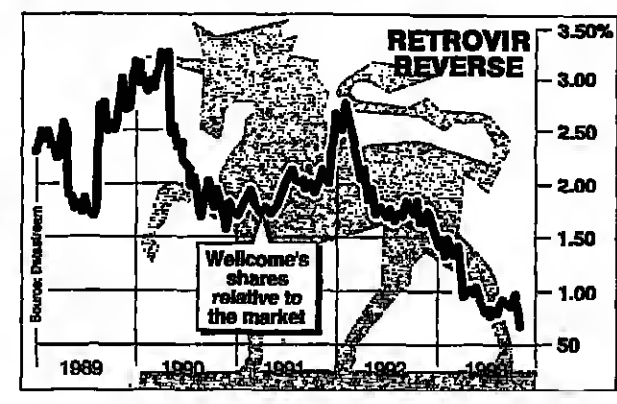
Wellcome

THERE was an air of hooliganism about the City's treatment of Wellcome's share price yesterday. The group has failed to deliver the exponential growth that everyone once predicted for Retrovir, so investors put the boot in. The market is a strange beast when it wipes 11 per cent off a company's share price after it delivers a 46 per cent hike in profits and its main product shows underlying sales growth of 11 per cent.

Certainly, there were warts in Wellcome's figures. An 11 per cent half-on-half fall in Retrovir sales was hardly a performance to be expected from a wonder drug. Sales may not recover quickly, if at all, unless the full Concorde study, when published, endorses early treatment of HIV. The slowdown in sales

of Zovirax in the second half suggests that Wellcome's bottom line is under pressure. But any forecast of Wellcome's future sales based on a six-month figure is as worthless as the "research" that predicted a multi-billion pound market for Retrovir on the back of a geometric progression of Aids sufferers. The new

Zovirax cold sore cream should help drive sales in the current year, as well as the roll-out of Laminal, the anti-epileptic drug. Wellcome has a long pipeline of new drugs, a strong balance sheet and an unblemished record in defending its margins. On a 15 per cent discount to the market, the shares look cheap.



Qantas

BRITISH Airways will lose little sleep over the A\$377 million (£170 million) loss from Qantas that mainly reflects provisions taken on the latter's merger with Australian Airlines. The likely effect on BA's profit and loss account, where Qantas is included as a 25 per cent associate, will be minimal. After stripping out the abnormal costs, BA's share of the Antipodean carrier's profit would be A\$8 million, or about £3.5 million compared with a contribution of £8.5 million last year. That contrasts with BA's group profits of £185 million last year.

More important is the long-term potential of the quarter share in Qantas that cost BA just over £300 million. The investment has been written down by about £70 million and the question remains as to whether BA needs to make further provisions against the value attributed to its shareholding. So far, the negligible return from Qantas can scarce-

ly justify the cost to BA, but airlines are a long-term investment. Qantas reports better load factors in the first quarter of its current year, and the Antipodean market should be benefiting from the withdrawal of competitors such as Continental Airlines from the Australia/New Zealand routes. On some cash flow measures, Qantas makes better margins than BA and the two airlines have yet to exploit any synergy benefits from the relationship. For BA, there is still something to go for, but it will be a long haul flight.

Gerrard & National

DEFENCE is not the only industry to suffer from a cessation of hostilities. Gerrard & National, the discount house, is the first financial company to show the scars of peace in its profit and loss account. Profits in the group's trading division tumbled by 69 per cent in the half year to the start of October, due to quiet-

er markets. The core discount house fared even worse with a 90 per cent slump to just £500,000. Last year, the firm had made hay while the government battled and eventually failed to keep Britain within the ERM.

Gerrard is the first to show such damage merely because it published its figures so promptly. Its experience suggests that profits from the high street banks' treasury divisions will be far less impressive in the current half year than they were in 1992 or earlier this year, when financial markets declared open season on the ERM. They are unlikely to notice much pain since the fall in bad debts provisions should more than compensate.

Gerrard cannot wholly blame the price of peace on the markets. The trading division's performance suggests it was wrong-footed by the August gilts rally. Perhaps the governments that were mauled by the markets can take comfort that the most experienced trader sometimes misses a trick.



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ENT ISSUES

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TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE[illegible][illegible]

Small gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began October 18. Dealings end today. 80cents day Monday. Settlement day November 8. Forward margins are permitted on two business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1993	Low	High	Company	Price	Net	Yld	P/E
429	30	31	Abey M	30	0.1	11.3	16.3
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New media formats are giving freelances more opportunities to advertise their skills to potential employers. David Guest reports

Why specialists are being wooed

A potentially inexpensive way to match freelance computer specialists with contracts was launched earlier this month and could be in operation by December.

Freelance Professional Publications (FPP), of Newbury, Berkshire, plans to cut out the middlemen — recruitment consultancies and agencies — with the publication of *The Computer Freelance Directory*, which will come out at six-monthly intervals.

Miles Hudson, the company's managing editor, says: "As someone who used to employ contract staff, and then became one myself, I could not see the need to use agencies and pay them a whacking fee each time. Employers are very knowledgeable about the sort of skills they need for a particular job and are more than competent to choose their staff."

The directory is intended to provide prospective employers with

lists of contractors, from which they will pick the skills they need.

Contractors pay in advance for the service, unlike other ways of finding assignments. A minimum entry in the directory will cost £12.75, and the fee rises if the contractor wants to say more about his or her range of skills and experience.

Mr Hudson's target of 750 contractors in the first issue of the directory is modest, given that the number in Britain is estimated to be 15,000. The target readership, the companies that will be sent the directory without charge, is less modest — 5,000.

On the face of it, the steady recovery this year in the volume of work for freelances makes FPP's timing look good. But the type of work and the skills in demand are not constant. Nobody with relational database experience, for example, should be in the position of having to advertise themselves.

There is a danger that the directory will list skills that the big users of information-technology specialists do not want.

Mr Hudson argues, however, that for small businesses there are flaws in the existing mechanisms for matching contract staff with jobs, which the directory can correct. He therefore intends that his directory will be distributed to Chambers of Commerce, business centres and libraries.

He says: "The whole idea is to generate work for contractors. But there is another side to it. A lot of small businesses that need specialist computing help often discover that going through an agency is a very expensive way of getting that help."

Mike Cullen, chairman of the independent computer contractors section of the British Computer Society, believes the directory has



Miles Hudson, of Freelance Professional Publications, offers a free service to businesses seeking staff

the potential to fill a significant gap in the market for computer skills. "Take the analogy of the motor industry," he says. "There are the big manufacturers, then there are the big franchises, dealerships and garages, and then there are the

little repair shops under the railway arches. In IT there are the first two tiers, in data-processing departments and contractors, but there is no equivalent of the body-shop under the arches.

There must be a demand for an

equivalent, especially among small businesses. We're not talking about the full-blown three months on the client's site at premium rates, but qualified people who can put in a few hours here and there installing an accounting package or

helping out with a new system." The directory is not the only innovation in computer contractor job shopping this year. In the spring an electronic mart called Rex was launched. Rex is an electronic version of the specialist publications such as *Computer Contractor* and *Freelance Informer*. Contractors, with personal computers at home and modems that give them access through the telephone network to the central Rex system, can dial in and browse through vacancies advertised on screen by agencies.

Rex is free to contractors. The service is effectively paid for by advertisers. Christine Symons, the publisher, says Rex now has six agencies regularly advertising and 1,500 contractors dialling in.

So freelance computer specialists find themselves being courted on all sides. From the directory, there is the opportunity for specialists to sell themselves to employers, to avoid agency fees; from the Rex system, the prospect of immediate access to lists of jobs as they become available; from the agencies, access to large IT users that deal only with certain recruitment organisations on preferred supplier lists; from newspaper and magazines, the traditional advertisements.

It may be that different sorts of operation will suit different types of freelance. If so, the more will clearly be the merrier.

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Our continuing success has created the need for an Operations Manager reporting to our I.T. Director. The Operations Manager will be responsible for the overall operational control of all Production Systems via the maintenance of existing Operating Systems and of the Relational Database Architecture. The role will encompass day-to-day provision of batch and on-line facilities, managing our communications network and the provision of services to personal computing environments.

There is a significant man-management element to the position in ensuring that your teams deliver consistently high quality results on time. However, although this is not a 'tech' role, the nature of our business demands someone with exposure to high level technical problems.

Probably in your early 30's+, your career history will have been in a fast moving, open systems financial services environment. Key requirements are a track record of achieving results through people, a breadth of expertise in leading edge computing technologies, combined with a high level of motivation and a commitment to quality and customer service. This is a results driven role, in return for achieving your targets you will receive an excellent benefits package which will reflect the contribution you make to the company's ambitious plans.

If you are interested and you meet the above criteria, please send your CV to Michael Raywood, Human Resources Director, Churchill House, 17 London Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1DE.



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At Dell we are proud of our record of growth and customer service which we recognise is due largely to the skills and experience of our employees. As part of our European expansion, we are seeking to fill two senior Human Resource positions with people who can identify and develop this same commitment to success in new and existing staff.

EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT MANAGER

This new position will require an experienced consultant who will be based at our European Headquarters in Bracknell, but will undertake extensive European travel. You will have at least 5 years experience in the search and selection industry, and have the ability to identify and recruit key people at senior levels for our European business. This is a proactive role supporting our European management team, where knowledge of the recruitment market place and of Dell's future management requirements will be instrumental in our business. In addition, you will be responsible for implementing leading edge selection practices across Europe. You should be fluent in English and one other European language.

EUROPEAN SALES TRAINING MANAGER

Development of our sales force throughout Europe is key to maintaining

our competitive edge. This role will develop the training strategy for these teams, deliver high level account development skills to sales management and senior sales professionals, and coach country based sales trainers in the implementation of the European training plan.

You will bring a background of at least 5 years in successful sales and account management in the IT industry. Knowledge of the PC market place, its major players and state-of-the-art sales techniques are essential.

You will have combined your sales background with at least two years experience in a training role, which will include needs analysis, delivery, coaching and training budget management.

These jobs offer an excellent entry into a highly business focused European HR function. Please send your CV with details of your current package to: Linda Sutcliffe, Recruitment Manager, Dell Computer Corporation, Western Road, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1RW. Fax: 0344 360058. All applications by: 5th November 1993.

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INFOTECH

The future is not here yet

Talk of electronic superhighways may make more sense in the 21st century, says Matthew May

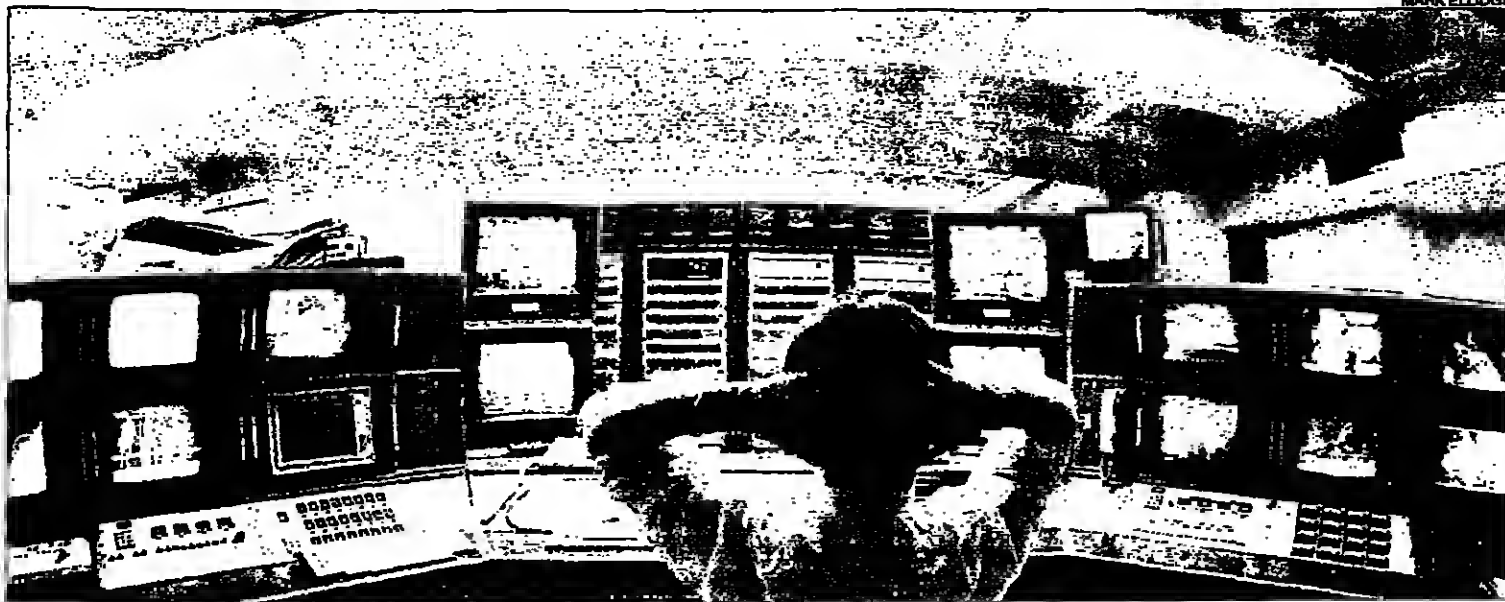
It is highway mania time at the moment. Whether talking about a digital highway, information highway or electronic superhighway, the possibilities of providing high capacity information links into every home, or even pocket, are mind boggling.

These can include virtually limitless channels of television entertainment or the ability to call up any film or video you want. They could also allow people to play interactive multimedia games; access and search huge databases of computerised information; shop from electronic supermarkets; and use electronic mail instead of the postal service.

The idea of electronic superhighways has clearly caught the imagination. Just as developed countries have needed to establish a network of motorways over the past few decades, it is argued that the 1990s demand a similar infrastructure of electronic highways.

In America the concept has received presidential support, while industry analysts are said to be excited by the giant mergers and alliances there that indicate a potential convergence of the telecommunications, entertainment and computer sectors as they prepare for these mass-market conduits of video, data and voice communications.

But even some of the most enthusiastic companies in America admit



Cable television companies are receiving a substantial boost from providing telephone calls, but more complex innovations may still be a long way off

that they are still looking for a so-called "killer application" that will prove irresistible to customers. Some observers point out that the fear of being left out of a possible communications revolution is as much a motivator as a clear understanding of what and whether new electronic services will take off.

What that winning application may be depends on the industry you talk to. Nearest to fruition is probably the expansion of television channels, which will include the ability to provide a huge selection of films — the most popular being shown on several channels at staggered starting times. Part of the telecommunications industry is convinced that the wireless transmission of superhighway services will eventually prove

irresistible. Scott McNealey, chairman of the computer company Sun Microsystems, believes that electronic mail will be the key as it offers the potential to replace the US Postal Service.

The true concept of the electronic superhighway is not the provision of one successful service but the availability of a wide selection and that must be many years away.

So far, services for computerised information, electronic shopping and electronic mail that have been aimed at the mass market have had little success, with the exception of the French Minitel system.

Pricing of any new services will be crucial. A world where anyone at home can browse through huge computerised databases to obtain

information on any topic may be useful, or even fun, but not if it costs £1 a minute. In America, the sceptics say, people have so far proved willing to pay extra only for blockbuster films or world championship sporting events.

In Britain, the interest of big American telecommunications companies in the cable industry is being described as an investment in what will be the communications systems of the next century. "Cable is more than just TV, more than just telephony. It's a high-tech fibre-optic network and information superhighway," the Cable Television Association says.

Not yet, however. The present interest in the cable industry has been spurred not by the possibilities of

transmitting computer information or the other high-tech uses of a superhighway but by one thing — telephone calls over cable. The fact that these can be 15 per cent cheaper than over traditional telephone lines is causing seven out of ten cable television subscribers to sign up for cable telephone, given the option.

Though cable presently provides only about 200,000 residential and business telephone lines, it is predicted to rise to three or four million by the end of the decade. Quite soon some cable operators will receive more revenue from telephone calls than from the transmission of television pictures.

For the moment, perhaps we should just be thankful that telephone calls are going to be cheaper.

Why didn't I think of that?

Once in a while, a software or hardware designer has an idea that solves a problem you did not know you had. Such products are rare, but increasing competition and a cut-throat market are becoming the mothers of invention.

Take the case of two American products designed to encourage more people to turn off their PCs when not in use. Users often leave their PCs on when they are not being used — so work is less likely to be lost and it can be picked up where the user left off.

While PCs do not use up as much electricity as some-

hardware and software add-on products.

The first is Quick Restart, from California-based Power Pro Software. It allows you to "save" an image of your work to the computer's disc and then switch off the machine. When you switch on again, the software uses the image to start up again exactly where you left off.

Quick Restart also reloads the data files you were working with when you switched off — even if you had not saved them. This software will only work, however, if you give it the command to save an image of your work before you switch off.

The second "green" product comes in Server Technology's Remote Power On/Off. This lets an owner use a computer modem or fax machine to switch his or her computer on and off remotely so that it can receive faxes or allow users access to files remotely without having to leave the PC switched on when it is not being used.

It sells in America for about £130 and the company plans shortly to have a British version on sale.

Such systems are not yet widely available, are still quite expensive and are not much help unless you want to replace your system. Hence the advent of two

Products you did not know you needed

GEORGE WHEELWRIGHT

Microsoft goes Arabic

MICROSOFT, the American computer software giant, says that sales of software in the Middle East are likely to expand by up to 400 per cent over the next three years.

Charles Allen, Microsoft's Middle East general manager, said he expected more people in the Gulf states — the company's main market in the region — to buy legitimate Microsoft software instead of using pirated copies. Mr Allen said that Microsoft, which has agreements with firms in the Middle East to develop Arabic software locally, would continue to prepare and package its products in America because it was cheaper.

Profits slip

JAPANESE consumer electronics companies, including Matsushita, the world's biggest consumer electronics maker, and Sharp, have announced lower half-year earnings, saying that sales of electronics

ONLINE

products have slumped more than they expected.

Lee Kerk Phua, an electronics analyst in Tokyo for Baring Securities, said: "Electronics companies need to develop something that will change human lifestyles in the way that radios, televisions and video recorders did."

Super TV

APPLE in America has announced the Macintosh TV, which combines a personal computer, television and CD-ROM stereo system. It includes a 14 in colour television and costs £1,400.

Snow job

A SPIDERY, 8ft-tall robot that got stuck during its first attempt to explore a volcano is being given another chance. The eight-legged purple contraption, known as Dante, is being rebuilt for a National Aeronautics & Space Administration mission to explore an active volcano in Alaska next year. Dante's mission inside Mount Erebus in Antarctica

Game plan

SONY is to start selling a video-game machine next year, making the choice of next-generation equipment even more confusing for game players. The machine will use several processors to speed up image processing and create "lifelike" three-dimensional images, the company says.

All together

JAPAN'S long-fragmented personal computer market is moving towards standardisation with the decision of Fujitsu to start selling IBM-compatible computers there.

Unlike in most countries, where IBM computers are a de facto standard, Japan's personal computer market has been fragmented by almost half a dozen incompatible systems.

The lack of a single standard has kept prices high, restricted competition from overseas, and discouraged computer sales.

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The candidate should be at ease dealing with customers either over the phone or face to face. An ability to handle difficult situations effectively in a professional and enthusiastic manner is essential.

Experience in an international environment is advantageous. Self motivation and a willingness and ability to work 'out of hours' around the world, when required, is also essential.

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MOTORING

Why does a BMW have style in abundance and the much-advertised Vento have none? Kevin Eason reports

What Kimberley-Anne hasn't got

Jaguar has always had it without really trying. Mercedes has the substance but is too dour to have any. Volkswagen used to have it but its quota has petered out via cars dull enough to be a motoring equivalent of a cup of Horlicks.

Rover has rediscovered it, while Ford had loads but lost the formula. Fiat thinks it has it but is deluded. Skoda would like some and Lada may as well forget it for the time being.

The factor is indefinable, elusive and inexplicable. The closest description is style. Cars that have it turn into legends, the ones without are best as scrap. To borrow lyrics from Sammy Cahn: "You've either got, or you haven't got, style."

Some cars become the anoraks and woolly hats of their generation. There is nothing that can save them, even when backed by a multi-million pound advertising campaign. Just look at VW's latest advertising campaign for the lacklustre Vento range. Put it another way, do not look if you are of a weak disposition. The car may be dull, though it is at least worthy. But if Kimberley-Anne's muscles are supposed to make us fall for the charms of the Vento, then someone wrote the wrong script.

A straw poll revealed that everyone could remember the rippling biceps, as big as the Vento's bumpers, and even Kimberley-Anne's cutely hyphenated name — nobody could remember the car.

One colleague said: "I would not want to be seen driving one of those." What could he have meant? My reaction was simply to rush to the fridge for a steak and pint of milk to try to build myself up for a test drive. Poor Kimberley-Anne, a sweet girl no doubt, but a distraction when advertising a car.

The reverse has been true for cars that sell on their image: like Renault's 19 range. To be fair, the Renault 19 range is not bad, not terrific, no earth-shattering performer, not a car which will be regarded as a benchmark for the motoring 1990s. But Renault should worry, with its market share in Britain up to 5 per cent and showrooms bulging with interested customers.

The French company's advertising has been so clever it has attracted a new audience. The theme of its television advertising featuring the young priest tempted

Kimberley-Anne. Built like a Vento.



by the 19 is as witty as it is colourful.

Test the success for yourself and try spotting how many dark blue Renault 19s, like the one in the television ads, there are on the roads. The answer is lots.

Then there are cars which are as much substance as style, such as the Saab 900 range, which promises to be one of the hits of 1993. An attractive package, attractively underdressed.

But there is one marque which stands out from the crowd: the cars are superb, the image classy and the advertising as clever as it is undemonstrative.

BMW has in the past ten years carved out an enviable niche among the motor manufacturers. And its new 3-series is the standard for all manufacturers of small saloons and coupes which want a market which spans both company car and private buyers. After test-driving the second generation 3-series cars, it is difficult to fault a model so well produced and so faultlessly advertised.

The latest television campaign features a four-door 3-series balanced delicately on the windscreen



Contrasts — Kimberley-Anne's Vento (top) is worthy but lacklustre, the BMW (above) is totally stylish

of the new convertible. Trick photography? Not a bit of it. All 2,600lb of 3-series was lifted carefully on to the windscreen, demonstrating its remarkable strength.

In fact, the convertible is a triumph of design and driver appeal. Once the top is down, the

car suffers a little from "the shakes" over rough terrain, with the body seemingly not quite stiff enough to withstand the bumps. After that, the smooth-as-silk six-cylinder engine takes over and the car is a joy to drive.

BMW has also taken care of the

driver nervous of exposing him or herself to the elements, particularly in an accident, not only with standard driver airbag and that stiff windscreen but also with automatic pop-up roll bars behind the back seat which shoot up on heavy impact.

Motoring on that sort of grand scale is an exclusive luxury for the few at £28,000 for the 325i convertible with manual gearbox and £29,100 for the automatic version. No need to spend so much, however. BMW has been working hard to ensure that the difference between the top and bottom of its ranges is not too great.

Extensive engine improvements mean that even the entry model 316i is now capable of hustling along with the best. BMW claims that it has 6 per cent better fuel consumption than earlier models, at 38.2 miles to the gallon on average, 3 per cent better acceleration to 62mph (100kph) and 2 per cent better power output, at 102 brake horsepower. The result is a car at less than £15,000 which punches above its weight with the best of them.

The driving position is comfortable, gear change instant and all controls within easy reach. Handling is sure-footed and relaxed, making the car easy to drive even for the most cack-handed motorist.

If that sounds like an over-enthusiastic tribute to one car, it comes from a driver who has to sit

at the wheel of dozens of instantly forgettable models every year. And one who is negotiating with his wife over what car to buy in 1994. I have not discovered a model to persuade me away from a 3-series. The series has good security features (immobiliser and deadlocks), good safety features (driver's airbag, side impact bars), plenty of standard features (anti-lock brakes, power steering, six-speaker stereo) ... as well as being a joy to drive.

Tom Purves, BMW (GB) managing director, says the company has been trying to counter growing competition from British competitors such as Rover's 600 models and the Japanese with a better value-for-money package — something that had to come from the Germans, who are not renowned for fitting the little luxuries as standard features.

"Drivers expect a lot for their money now," he says. "It is not enough for the car to be well engineered or good to drive. It has to have all those extra features."

So the BMW 3-series is well made and value for money as well. Better than that, it has style. Just look at the car — its smooth, sleek shape is as distinctive as anything on the road.

The first time I saw a 3-series was in a car park in the United States. There was a dark blue one tucked in among the massive Oldsmobiles and Lincolns and it was so well designed it looked alien surrounded by lumpy American sedans.

BMW's 3-series is an outstanding range, from the standard 316i all the way to the glamorous convertible. Now if I can just persuade Mrs Eason to write that cheque ...

HOW DO THEY RUN?

BMW 316i

Price: £14,795.

Engine: four-cylinder, eight valve 1.6-litre for 102bhp through five-speed manual transmission.

Performance: top speed 121mph; 0-62mph in 14.2sec; average fuel consumption 38.2mpg.

BMW 325i Convertible

Price: £28,000 (manual).

Engine: 2.5-litre, six-cylinder developing 192bhp through five-speed manual gearbox.

Performance: top speed 142mph; 0-60mph in 8.6sec; average fuel consumption 31mpg.

Only four years after its launch, Toyota's luxury Lexus LS400 is challenging Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz and BMW, and the challenge is now strengthened with the launch of a smaller, cheaper Lexus, the GS300. *Vaughan Freeman writes.*

Behind the GS300 is a reputation for reliability and smooth performance created by the LS400, which this year is once again top of the American J.D. Power survey on customer satisfaction, showing the car to have fewer problems than any of its rivals.

The GS300 is an opulent car, lined with leather and smatterings of dark, highly-polished wood, and crammed with devices such as air conditioning, anti-lock braking, climate control, 12-disc automatic CD player, cruise control, dual airbags and electric everything.

Leg room for driver and

The deep peace of a Lexus

Challenge to Europe's top models



Luxury from Japan — Toyota's Lexus GS300

front passenger is ample, and the electrically-controlled steering wheel moves every which way, as do the electric seats (with in-built heater). Surprisingly, front headroom, for occupants over 6ft 4in tall, is hampered by the sunroof.

The engine is so silent only the rev counter reassures that you have not forgotten to turn on the engine. Progress is very

smooth, thanks to the advanced automatic gearbox which matches the moment of gear-change perfectly to the engine revs. Corrugated road surfaces, though, brought unexpected road noise and sharp bends with poor surfaces caused a front wheel to skip.

The GS300 is at its best on motorways, waiting along as fast as the limit will allow.

Here it is smooth, effortless, and ideal transport for Lexus drivers who are known to do higher mileages than drivers of other makes. The GS300 is eminently efficient, a sort of Holiday Inn on wheels, which does absolutely everything you ask of it, and does it immediately, politely and comfortably. Like most Holiday Inns though, it is a little lacking in personality.

Such quibbles will hardly bother Toyota. Since the LS400 was launched in Britain in 1990, sales have gone from 583 to 695 for 1992, and close to 1,000 for the first nine months of 1993. Toyota expects sales of the two models to jump to around 2,200 next year, which might seem to conflict with trends towards smaller, often diesel-engined, "greener" cars.

Lexus GS300

Engine — three-litre, in-line six-cylinder petrol giving 209bhp at 5800rpm, through four-speed automatic gearbox.

Performance — top speed 143mph, 0-60mph in 8.6 seconds.

Economy — 36.2mpg at 56mph, 29.7mpg at 75mph, and 20.2mpg in town. Price — £31,950.

ROADWISE

Owning up to the facts

NOT a lot of people know this, but according to the latest survey on car ownership from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, there is a car for every 2.4 people in Britain — 23.6 million in total. The survey reveals that the top European Community car owners are the Italians, with one car for every 1.9 people, while Greece is bottom of the list with only one for every 5.9.

DAIMLER-Benz could shortly be listed on the Shanghai stock exchange as the company negotiates to build cars and trucks in China. That will pave the way for a joint venture which could mean the building of a plant capable of making 80,000 to 100,000 Mercedes cars a year. Mercedes, the car division of Germany's most powerful industrial conglomerate, has already announced it is to build a car plant in America, probably to manufacture sports models for the US market.

IF YOU think the pollution in Britain is bad, the Greeks are suffering much more. Athens recently banned cars from its centre after pollution put about 1,000 people in hospital. For the brief duration of the emergency, only taxis with even-numbered licence plates were allowed to work.

FIAT's tiny Cinquecento was judged the most ecological vehicle on sale in Switzerland by the Swiss Traffic Association. The judges took into account fuel consumption, exhaust emissions, noise and cost per mile. The Cinquecento beat Daihatsu's Charade and the Suzuki Swift.

FORD IS claiming an altitude-towing record for one of its Maverick 4x4 vehicles which towed a Europa caravan on a road two miles high in the French Alps. The Maverick GLX negotiated twists and turns 9,193ft up Col de la Bonette with the one-tonne Europa safely behind.



Crash! Here comes an executive again

Overworked and stressed executives are the most accident-prone drivers on British roads, *Kevin Eason writes.*

They lose concentration, and forget the size of their luxury cars, clipping kerbs and signposts, or simply ploughing into the vehicle in front as tiredness overwhelms them.

When they have an accident, repairs cost twice as much as those for other employees because executives drive expensive limousines. The findings come from Fleet Management Services (FMS), one of Britain's leading providers of company cars. FMS checked insurance claims over the past two years for the 14,000 company cars on its books and discovered that the managing director's Jaguar is more likely to have been in a prang than any other car on the fleet.

On average, senior directors and managers have an accident every 9,500 business miles compared with an average of one every 12,000 business miles for sales representatives.

Office-bound staff who have a company car are even less likely to have an crash, according to FMS, with an

Overstressed bosses lead the league tables for accidents

accident only every 15,000 miles. Their bumps and knocks are rarely serious, usually inflicted at low speed in town on the way to or from the office.

Sales representatives, supposed to be the bulls in the motoring china shop, are all or nothing: either the accident is a minor scrape or the car is written off. Surprisingly that "either-or" approach keeps average repair bills down to about £445.

The problem with directors' cars is that it takes only a small bang on the side of a Mercedes or Jaguar to have the local garage mechanic sucking his teeth and shaking his head while totting up a bill big enough to guarantee every one on the staff a two-week continental holiday. The result is that the average repair cost for cars in the director category is £914 per car, twice as much as for the "rep's

motor". Most of the damage is caused because directors and managers work long hours and suffer from above-average stress. Instead of calculating the extra width of their limousines, they take short cuts and scrape the paint, fall asleep and have a collision or are so distracted that they make elementary mistakes.

Derick Perkins, FMS director of maintenance control, says: "There is no question that it is lack of concentration or judgment, caused most probably by stress or tiredness, which leads to most accidents involving company directors."

"The accidents tend to involve a collision with the back of the vehicle in front, with street furniture or a stationary vehicle. Another factor is the size of executive cars when overtaking."

"As you might expect, sales executives and engineers, who drive far and fast, have more than their fair share of bumps and scrapes, which are often not their own fault. But when they do have an accident for which they bear some responsibility, the car is often written off."

KEVIN EASON

Looking for a steady, reliable car?

A survey has asked fleet managers which vehicle they would choose

THE BEST method of discovering the most reliable cars on the road is to ask the drivers who use them day-in and day-out over tens of thousands of miles a year. Company cars are the workhorses of the Tarmac, subjected to the sort of mileage and punishment that no private driver would even dream of putting his or her pride and joy through, *Kevin Eason writes.*

The survey of company car schemes carried out by Tolley this year gives a detailed look at the buying patterns of Britain's fleet buyers and the cars they are most prepared to put their faith in.

Tolley asked companies to list the most reliable and the least reliable makes and discovered a clear winner.

Vauxhall outguns all of its rivals ... and by a clear margin, most impressing managers of most fleets.

Tolley rates cars by category with Vauxhall ranking alongside Mercedes-Benz in the top band for reliability. BMW,

Volvo and Volkswagen make up the next group.

Ford appears in the mid-range category three, alongside marques such as Nissan and Audi, while Rover is one band down with Fiat. Lancia is sadly all alone in the bottom category six.

However, the big test came when fleet managers were asked which make they would pick if they were confined to just one range. They were free to choose anything from Ferraris to Rolls-Royces if they wanted to.

The reality was more down to earth, Tolley says, and Vauxhall was the leading choice. Forty per cent of fleet managers chose the Vauxhall range, with Ford second and Rover third.

More than 430 companies took part in the survey, making it one of the weightiest

tests available to motor manufacturers anxious to discover satisfaction among fleet customers who buy half of all the new cars in the UK.

The reaction to Vauxhall is underlined by the fact that there are now more Vauxhalls in the fleet than Fords — 80 per cent of fleets have Vauxhalls compared with 77 per cent with Fords.

THERE SEEMS little doubt that much of that has to do with the fact that Ford was sliding its old Sierra model off the scene when this survey was carried out. The replacement, the Mondeo, was launched in March. The success of the Mondeo should make a big impact on the 1994 Tolley tables.

Jaguar might also argue with the reliability tables, citing a big increase in quality,

productivity and reliability levels since the Tolley tables were put together.

Meanwhile, 23 per cent of all sales representatives now drive a Vauxhall Cavalier, with Astras next in line in the Tolley survey. The Sierra comes next, followed by the Escort/Orion range and Peugeot 405. Among directors, the traditional popularity of the Jaguar is being challenged by models such as the Rover 800, Ford Granada and BMW 5-series.

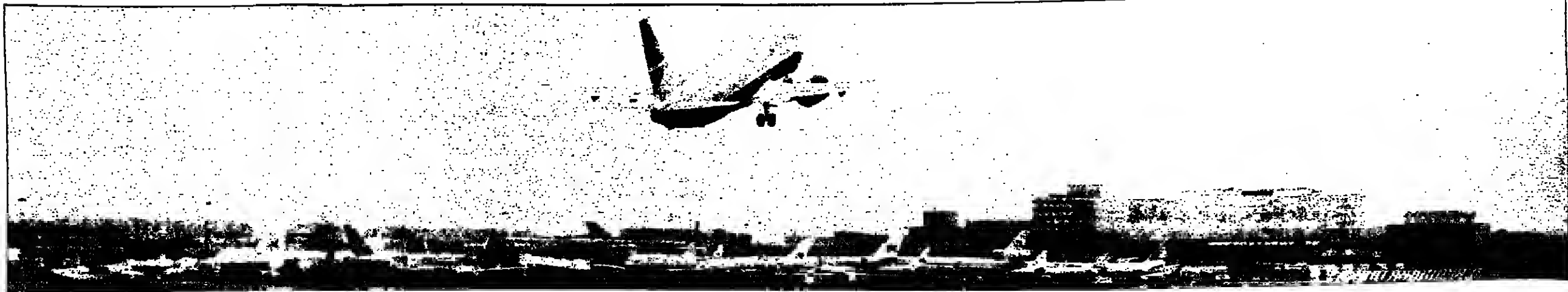
Test results: (most reliable, category 1; least reliable, category 6). 1: Vauxhall; Mercedes; 2: BMW; Volvo; Volkswagen; 3: Nissan; Saab; Audi; Ford; Honda; 4: Rover; Fiat; 5: Alfa Romeo; Peugeot; Citroën; Jaguar; Land/Range Rover; Renault; 6: Lancia.

● The Company Secretary's Review, Survey of Company Car Schemes 1993-4, £45 from Tolley Publishing Company, Tolley House, 2, Addison Road, Croydon CR9 3AF.

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GATWICK AIRPORT

Gatwick, Britain's second largest airport, is spending £43 million to improve its image and win more customers, Harvey Elliott reports



Flightpath to a sound future

Nothing is more calculated to make the collective blood of Gatwick's senior management boil than the sight of hundreds of cars fighting their way up the M23 and around the M25 on their way to catch a scheduled flight from Heathrow.

From Reigate, from Guildford, from Haywards Heath and even from Brighton they stream, adding many miles of unnecessary travel to their working day, certain in their conviction that Gatwick is only a "bucket and spade" airport.

Yet Gatwick has many more scheduled flights than charter — 60 per cent of the take-offs and landings are made by scheduled services. The deeply ingrained image of Gatwick as purely a holiday airport, however, means that 80 per cent of the passengers — even those on scheduled services — are taking a leisure-based trip rather than making a business flight. This is a marked improvement on the numbers of only a few years ago, but it is still the main reason why Gatwick is struggling to fulfil its true potential.

As airlines compete to fill their spare seats, they offer lower and lower economy-class prices. This means, in the end, that business and first-class passengers effectively subsidise those at the back of the aircraft. It is a strategy that can work for a scheduled carrier when the front end of the aircraft has its fair share of those who need instant access to business destinations. But it has been the ruin of so many airlines which, over the years, have struggled to persuade business passengers to fly from Gatwick.

British Caledonian, Laker, Air Europe and, more recently, Dan-Air all found it an impossible task

and disappeared. To a large extent, however, they were fighting a lone battle with BAA, the airport's owner, which remained aloof from their commercial feuds. Now Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) is fighting as hard as the airlines, not only to improve services to passengers, but to go out into the marketplace and persuade business travellers to use their "local" airport.

It is a strange position for GAL to

be in. Together with Heathrow and Stansted, it is part of the hugely successful conglomerate BAA. Stansted, especially, is losing money and needs to fill the gaping holes in its capacity as quickly as possible. If Gatwick is successful, it will take business away from the Essex airport — and from the "big brother" Heathrow. So one part of BAA is fighting another for custom.

Many critics of the privatisation of the old British Airports Author-

ity argued that the three big London airports should not have been handed over to one company.

Yet the tight control which the original private company exerted on its three parts has now been eased and, through BAA under its chief executive Sir John Egan, Gatwick has been encouraged to stand alone and fight — if necessary against its partners.

The effect has been dramatic. Not only have passenger services im-

proved and relationships with "customer" airlines been revolutionised, but large amounts of cash have been freed from the BAA coffers to be pumped into a "hearts and minds" campaign to change the airport's image with potential business passengers.

The first task was to halt the slide in total passenger numbers — down by 1.3 million last year from the 1989 peak of 21.2 million a year. This involved looking after the

airlines which seemed determined to move out as quickly as possible to Heathrow.

In this GAL has been given little help by the government which opened up Heathrow to all-comers, provided they could find take-off slots. As a result, airlines such as Japan's ANA, Cathay, Emirates and others switched their allegiance. Much now depends on negotiations going on between Britain and America over further

liberalisation of transatlantic air services. If Heathrow is opened up still further to the giant American airlines, Gatwick could suffer further.

To combat this, Gatwick has introduced a range of novel schemes and improvements. Most notable, perhaps, has been the development of Fast Track, the airport's red carpet route for first and business-class passengers which provides priority treatment for departing passengers with dedicated security and passport control channels, duty free and bureaux de change tills.

The scheme appears to be working well, with an increase of more than 100,000 business passengers using Gatwick in the first three months of this year compared with the last quarter of 1992.

Gatwick is spending £30 million on improving the 35-year-old south terminal with double the number of seats, greater choice of places to eat, more shops, children's play areas, showers, more space for check-in and a large new balcony floor with views over the airfield.

A £12-million scheme to reshape the international departure lounge at north terminal is under way and a further £1 million is being invested this autumn to push the airport's business attractions. The promotions will include a series of joint international roadshows with airlines, poster, radio and press advertising, a direct mail campaign and an education programme for business travel agents.

Videos showing the ease of access to the airport, especially by rail from Victoria or London Bridge will also be widely shown — yet another determined attempt to change once and for all Gatwick's out-dated image.



Allan Munds: optimistic

There are two types of airline on which Gatwick airport is staking its hopes and aspirations. They are, says Allan Munds, the managing director, the airlines already operating from the airport, and the new customer airlines that the management aims to attract to the airport.

In particular, the airport wants to see more business travellers. Gatwick has lost two big British customer airlines with the collapse of Air Europe and Dan-Air. A change in previous "traffic distribution rules", which allowed the opening up of Heathrow airport, lost Gatwick further customers. Several airlines which had previously been restricted to Gatwick for their London services chose to transfer some or all of their London operations to Heathrow.

Until the Gulf war, Gatwick was right behind Heathrow, in second place among the world's

On schedule for rapid recovery

busiest international airports. Although Mr Munds admits to disappointment that Gatwick's place in the world league has slipped to fifth, he is optimistic about future growth. "The real question is: 'Is Gatwick a successful airport?' And the answer is yes."

Its profit for the year to 1993 was £37.9 million, after the previous year's profit had slipped to £37 million. Profit for 1989-90, before the Gulf war and the recession, peaked at £58.6 million. "Gatwick is very successful, and it will grow again," Mr Munds says.

"In the case of Gatwick, our

main thrust now is to try to encourage more of the business community to use the scheduled services here, which will help the airlines that are here to improve their yield, and make those services more profitable."

Mr Munds also wants to see a growth in the charter traffic at Gatwick. "The charter operators felt they were under pressure before the Gulf war and the present recession. They felt they were being squeezed out of Gatwick," he says.

"But they have capacity here to operate. They are very successful, operate large quiet aircraft, make

good use of the runway, and I think there is scope for the charter business to grow here."

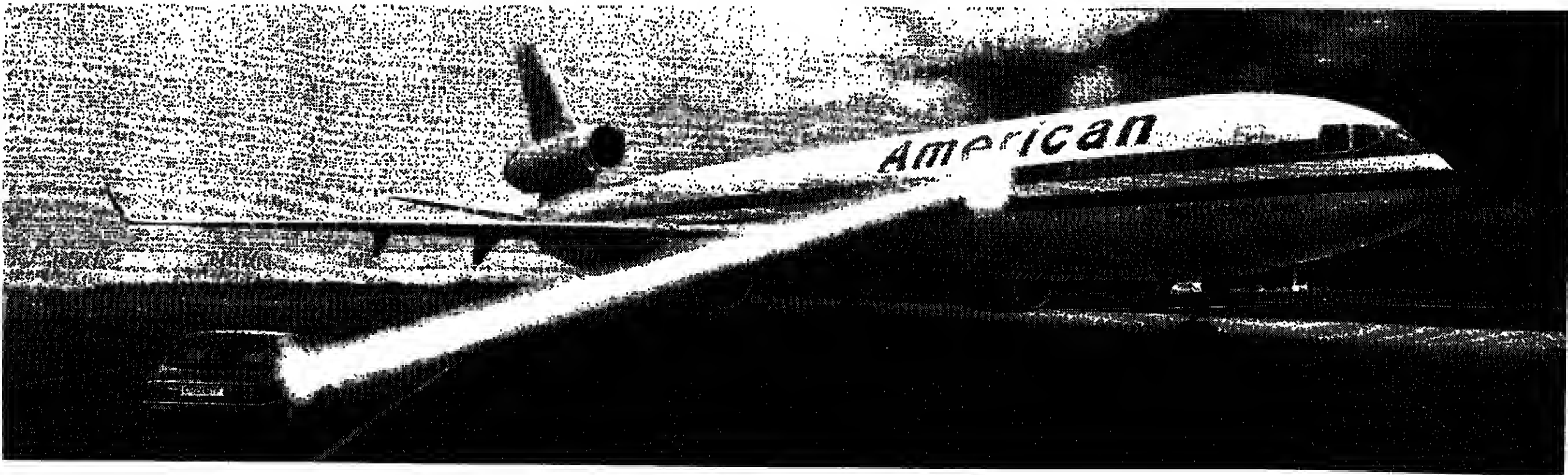
Making good use of Gatwick's single runway is something which the airport does extremely well. Along with Hong Kong, it shares leadership as the world's busiest single-runway international airport.

The growth of British Airways' presence since completion of Gatwick's second terminal — the £200-million north terminal development opened in 1988 — is significant in the future of the airport, Mr Munds says.

"On the scheduled side, I would like to see British Airways make a success of the building up of their hub here. And then we would like to help the other scheduled airlines to move into profit by generating more regular traffic through the airport."

FRANK ROBSON

Dulwich to Dallas. Beam me up, Fast Track.



Fast Track is our commitment to the business flyer, helping you reach your ultimate destination faster and more efficiently than through any other airport.

By road it's a quick drive round to the M23 — an average of 30 minute journey to London Gatwick, where you will find ample low cost parking.

At London Gatwick's terminals Fast Track means priority channels through check-in, security, passport control, Bureau de

Change, even Duty Free.

Fast Track is designed to make the best use of your time and is available to any business class flyer. And now American Airlines flies daily to Dallas via London Gatwick.

So when someone asks if you're flying from London Gatwick, you can mention that you're also flying to it And through it.

For more details and a complete guide to London Gatwick services, call 0800 210 212.

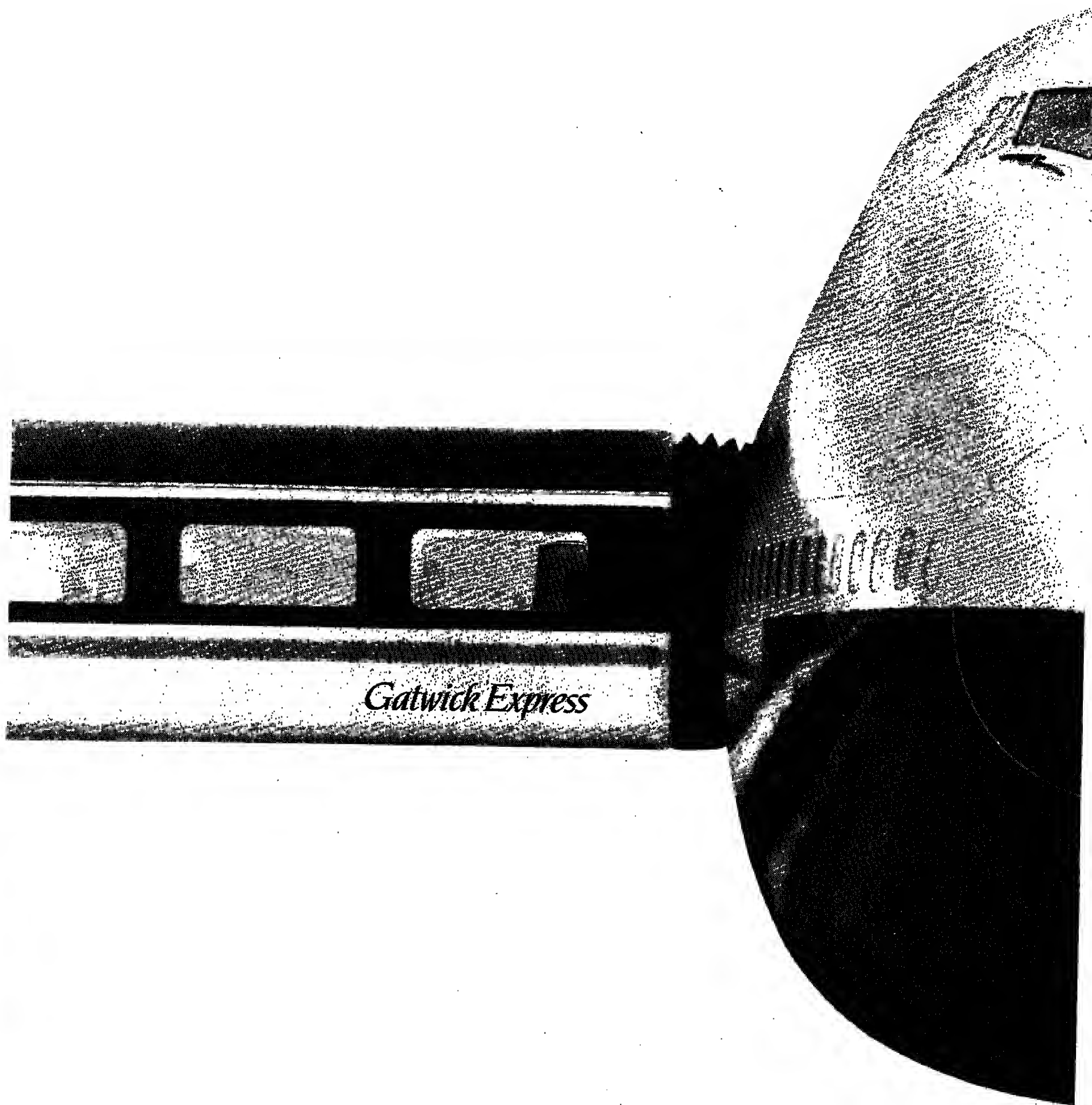
London
Gatwick

THE FAST TRACK AIRPORT

هكذا من الاجل

vey Elliott reports

London Gatwick. 30 minutes from the centre of London.



Every 15 minutes, the InterCity Gatwick Express goes non-stop to London Gatwick. And because with British Airways you can check your bags in at Victoria Station, you'll also go non-stop through the airport.

LONDON GATWICK
The hub without the hubbub
BRITISH AIRWAYS

DET 3.

JOHN
RUSSELL TAYLOR

his sight is eventually restored
by love (equals Eros).
This is danced, I think, to an

provide an entertaining spec-
tacle. The traditional text gives
him good material that suits

YOSMAY Anyha, Sugar
Pobereznik's solos are slightly
more fluent. To match Mich-

Tue-Sun 10.00-11.00 HIGH 12.00-1.00

Guinea licence turned race course into a £1.1 billion winner



Gatwick aerodrome 63 years ago, with Ronald Waters, the co-founder, centre of picture, left, carrying out a hasty service on a truck and plough during a clearing operation. It was a world away from today's international airport, right

Frank Robson on Gatwick's history, from ploughed fields to London's second airport

Some impressive hurdles have been cleared at Gatwick since Lester Piggott's grandfather, Ernie, rode Poethlyn to victory in the 1918 wartime Grand National there.

Shortly afterwards, taking advantage of the big advances that had been made in aviation during the first world war, two young pioneers teamed up to take the first steps in transforming the Sussex race course into a leading international airport.

The enthusiasm and drive of John Mockford and Ronald Waters were to pave the way for a string of Gatwick firsts — including the first airport to have a circular terminal building, and the first airport to have a dedicated rail link.

When Waters — who had set up in business at Pethurst aerodrome, Kent, in the late 1920s — learnt that some fields were for sale at Colindale Farm, between Gatwick race course and the nearby village of Lowfield Heath, he persuaded his father to help him and his business

partner buy the site. They set about backing the belief that their purchase of about 90 acres (compared with the 1,876 acres of the present Gatwick airport) would make a good aerodrome.

Foremost in the minds of the Waters-Mockford partnership, Home Counties Aircraft Services, was the belief that Gatwick would be ideal as a diversionary airfield for planes from the Continent when bad weather prevented them landing at Croydon, Britain's first dedicated international airport.

After the two had paid a fee of one guinea, the air ministry issued them with the first aerodrome licence for Gatwick, applicable from August 1, 1930.

Although the site had been used for some years as a landing ground for light aircraft, the licence marked the effective commercial beginning for Gatwick as an

airport. Or as the ministry phrased it, "as a regular place of landing or departure by aircraft carrying passengers for hire or reward".

The duration of the first licence was just six months — but it was enough to steer Gatwick towards its present importance. The ministry ruled, however, that only light planes of the Avro 504 type could be used until the site was further cleared of hedges, and ditches were levelled.

Gradually, the obstructions were removed as Gatwick started to earn revenue from aircraft. August bank holiday joyrides cost from five shillings (25p), and stunt-flying cost from one guinea (£1.05). Other Gatwick activities included providing aerial taxi trips within Britain.

Although passenger planes unable to land at Croydon often switched to Gatwick, the aerodrome was not then licensed for such

arrivals. But what else could it do but receive them? And one of the emergency-landing users, Imperial Airways, the state-sponsored British airline, paid out landing fees that were very welcome to the young company.

A combination of economic depression and the effects of stormy weather finally took its toll on the vision that Waters and Mockford had for Gatwick. Water from the River Mole and other streams aggravated several problems, not least the mud on the runways. In May 1932, the pair eventually sold out to Redwing Aircraft Company, a light-plane manufacturer. Waters stayed in aviation; Mockford went overseas.

Redwing opened up with a big flying display and a band on July 1, 1932. The new management continued making improvements at Gatwick that the previous

owners had failed to complete to the air ministry's satisfaction.

But Redwing did not persevere, and in September 1933 Alfred Jackman bought the aerodrome for £13,500. Its present gross replacement value is £1.1 billion.

Jackman, aged 29 and a director of his family's civil engineering business, had dreamt of having his own airline since he learnt to fly six years earlier. Instead, he started running a great airport. He founded the Horley Syndicate — later renamed Airports Limited. It was responsible for most that happened at Gatwick up to the 1950s.

In 1954, the ministry awarded Gatwick a public licence, allowing its use by commercial aircraft. And by 1956 the "beehive" circular terminal designed by Jackman was completed. The terminal, with its own direct link to the railway

station, is to the left of the south terminal building, and now used as offices.

By 1935, Gatwick was slightly bigger than Croydon and, with a ministry subsidy, the airport stayed open 24 hours a day. New airlines moved in, among them Allied British Airways, which soon became the first British Airways.

Marcel Desoutter, who became a director of Airports Limited in 1934, was to become a leading architect of Gatwick's development. But on the outbreak of the second world war, Gatwick was taken over by the RAF. Desoutter, determined that Gatwick should resume its role as a major airport for London, commissioned a new study on development before the war ended.

But it was not until July 1952, three months after Desoutter's death, that the government announced that it had accepted the need for Gatwick to develop towards the international airport, catering for 20 million passengers a year, that it is today.

The fast track to growth

Arthur Reed on Gatwick's impressive portfolio of airlines

Gatwick's mix of package holiday-makers setting off in leisurely fashion on cheap charters to the sun or snow, and executives intent on catching scheduled flights with the shortest possible check-in time, gives those who run the airport one of their biggest problems.

BAA's management has had its successes in this area over the years, as the statistics show. In 1987-8, the airport handled 9.7 million scheduled and 11.2 million non-scheduled passengers; by 1992-3 the figures had been reversed to 11.7 million and 8.7 million respectively.

However, nobody will know how many briefcase flyers have been put off using Gatwick by visions of having to push their way through crowds of tourists.

Although not as strong as in the past, the image of Gatwick as predominantly a holiday airport is hard to frown down. Heathrow, despite its overcrowding and its comparative difficulty of access, remains the most important hub in the aviation world, and the place to which ten airlines, including Cathay Pacific, Virgin Atlantic, Korean Air and All Nippon switched some or all of their flights when the government relaxed the traffic distribution rules at the beginning of last year.

But Gatwick still boasts a portfolio of the industry's biggest names, among them British Airways, Air France, American, Cathay, Continental, Delta, KLM, Lufthansa, TWA, USAir and Virgin.

The Gatwick management has done much to help the scheduled airline traveller, introducing Fast Track, a red carpet route for first-class and



A passenger's suitcase goes through the Fast Track baggage check system at Gatwick, speeding up departure

business-class passengers which bypasses the charter queues; more executive lounges have been opened; and bars and restaurants, shopping malls and departure areas have all been revamped.

In spite of the airline migration to Heathrow, the choice of scheduled destinations from Gatwick for the business person demanding flight frequency is impressive — about a dozen flights a day to Paris, for instance, and more destinations in the United States than any other airport in Britain. The airport offers services by 43 scheduled airlines to 115 places in 50 countries. When the charter services are included, the total rises to 161 airlines to about 250 destinations.

The biggest operator at Gatwick, having taken over in recent years British Caledonian, Dan-Air, and the French airline TAT, is British Airways, which is developing an interchange hub in the newer north terminal. There are a

further 18 airlines serving long-haul destinations. Several of the charter companies at Gatwick have used the airport as a base since package holidays took off in a big way 30 years ago. While they still fly holidaymakers to the traditional package destinations — the Canaries, Palma, Ibiza and Greece — more distant places have recently

been added to their timetables. Britannia Airways takes tourists to Australia and New Zealand, to Florida and the Caribbean, to the Gambia and Egypt; while Air 2000 serves Montego Bay and Mombasa.

Like many other European airports, in the wake of the Gulf war and business recession, Gatwick has seen its air freight throughput decline in recent years from the high of 227,000 tonnes handled in 1990. The London Gatwick World Cargo Centre now shifts about 200,000 tonnes annually, and this year there have been encouraging signs of an increase.

About 92 per cent of all the air freight which passes through Gatwick flies in the underfloor holds of passenger airliners, although the cargo centre has three of its eight aircraft stands adapted for nose-loading Boeing 747 freighters. Three of the other stands are big enough to accept wide-bodied aircraft.

There are 11 bonded transit sheds with 200,000 sq ft of warehouse space and, to the west of the cargo centre, a large area of land has been earmarked for future development, although this project will be started only if there is a big increase in freight throughput.

The Gatwick cargo operation is integrated with a computerised system which keeps

close track of all freight movements, and which is linked with the other BAA London airports. A more advanced system, CCS UK, is to be introduced on February 1. This will give freight agents the ability to check whether there is room on flights, book space and track consignments. It will also warn airlines of consignments for export, and should speed up processes through the cargo centre.

Simon Edwards, the BAA cargo manager at Gatwick, says: "Although we have lost a number of airlines to Heathrow, we have also gained a number of new ones and, in fact, we now have more carriers than in the past."

"The tonnages of air freight which they produce are holding steady, and we expect the figures to rise in the next two or three years as the recession goes away."

"The airlines see our speed of throughput as a major benefit — from the time that it lands here, most air freight is out of the door within four hours."

Share. He is now free, he says, to concentrate on marketing Gatwick Express to the full. The areas of interest are combined rail-air ticket packages with the airlines, and closer links with travel agents.

He will manage the Gatwick Express until the service is put out to tender. The next six months be spent building up an operational, contractual and financial track record of the Gatwick Express. The timing of the sale depends on the government, and on the railways bill's passage through Parliament. Incorporation into a limited company next April could be followed fairly quickly by an invitation to bid for the first seven-year franchise.

DAVID CARTER

BA flies to victory in the face of failure

After a bad start, the airline heads for a profit

Mr Mullaney says. The priority was to balance the number of short-haul and long-haul services and to do this the airline not only took over many Dan-Air routes, but signed partnership deals with both the French airline TAT and the fledgling CityFlyer Express, both of which now fly in BA colours.

The staff were persuaded to accept lower pay and the airline's cost base was slashed

It appears, therefore, that BA should now be concentrating on developing the airport's rivals are leaving. BA argues, however, that Gatwick complements rather than competes with its operations at Heathrow. Eamonn Mullaney, BA's managing director at Gatwick, says: "Heathrow simply cannot support all the services we want to operate from London. Gatwick gives us the chance of making the best of the opportunities available at both London's key hubs, to develop profitable short-haul and long-haul operations."

The airline has never made any secret of the fact that it has lost money at Gatwick since its merger with British Caledonian in 1988. The problem became so serious that last year it had to decide whether to scale down its Gatwick base dramatically or to expand it rapidly and attempt to turn a profit. It chose the latter.

"Dan-Air presented a unique opportunity for BA to establish a low cost short haul operation to support its growing long-haul route network,"

within Europe by introducing a second through-running service linking Oslo with Gatwick and Athens. Other such links between more than two countries are in the pipeline.

Such developments have led to a staggering growth in passenger traffic with an anticipated 4.1 million travelling on BA through Gatwick this year compared with 2.2 million last. BA officials are particularly pleased with the growth in transfer traffic — a sure sign that a genuine "hub" is developing.

Between April and August this year, the number of transfer passengers handled by BA was up by 51 per cent and figures for August alone, compared to the same month last year, were up 115 per cent. Another statistic which shows that the "hub" is now developing well is that last summer there were 84 cities linked via Gatwick each day. By this summer that figure had risen to 226.

Now British Airways is concentrating on switching passengers from one service to another more quickly than at any rival airport. Gatwick's north terminal is potentially capable of disembarking passengers from one service and embarking them on another within 30 minutes, although it presently takes 45. This compares with the standard time at Schiphol of 50 minutes, and one hour 15 minutes at Heathrow where passengers must travel between terminals one and four.

Mr Mullaney is determined to have all BA's services and those operated by the carrier's partner airlines at the north terminal. "A hub is not just where you connect between flights — any connection counts from train, car or bus," he says. "Gatwick has the benefit of the best surface transport links in Europe. It is a message which has proved difficult to get across, as business passengers still believe that Heathrow, with all its airlines and frequency of flights, provides the most choice."

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Beary-eyed American tourists arriving at Gatwick each morning face a bewildering choice of trains to London.

Three services are touting for passengers' custom. Very much in the limelight is the self-contained Gatwick Express, operated as a "shadow franchise" since October 10. This represents a first stage in the privatisation of British Rail. But BR's Network SouthEast (NSE) sector is offering stiff competition.

If speed, comfort and frequency are important, catch the Gatwick Express. It can whisk you to Victoria in 20 minutes for £8.60 and there is always a train at the platform ready to be boarded between 6am and 8pm.

NSE's SouthCentral divi-

Chuffed for choice

Gatwick Express is taking on the competition

sion offers a frequent but slower, stopping, service to Victoria for £7.50; its commuter trains are showing their age. NSE's much newer Thameslink trains can take you to the heart of the City in about 40 minutes for £8, by a half-hourly service.

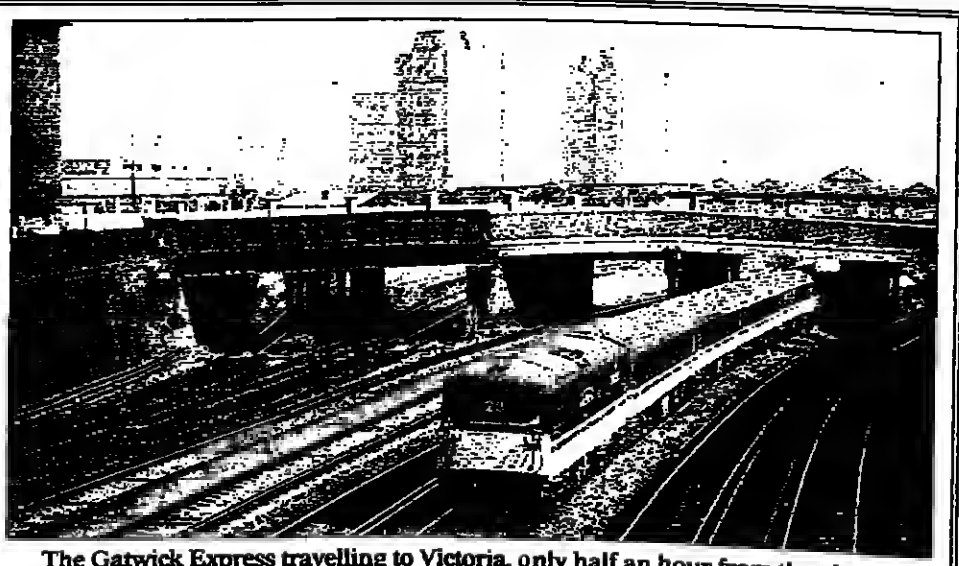
Competition on fares is limited by what the British Railways board (and the government) are prepared to see. The banners draped all over Victoria station displaying the different fares to Gatwick symbolise vigorous, but hardly cut-throat, competition.

No one wants a price war, yet Gatwick airport has boasted an integrated railway station and air terminal since the 1950s. The Gatwick Express was launched in 1984 and soon established itself as a reliable and profitable performer. It has also helped in the marketing of the airport itself. Foreign airlines are pleasantly surprised at how easy it is to reach central London by rail. By contrast, Heathrow's high-speed ser-

vice, the Heathrow Express to Paddington, is not due to open until 1997.

Gatwick Express trains are certainly not in their first flush of youth. The luggage vans date from the 1950s, the locomotives from the 1960s and the coaches from the 1970s. They are, however, fully refurbished and well-maintained.

Roh Mason, shadow franchise director of the Gatwick Express, wants to increase his share of surface access to the airport from 17 per cent to 20 per cent, or almost all of rail's overall 25 per cent market



The Gatwick Express travelling to Victoria, only half an hour from the airport

سكة حديد الأصيل



THEATRE page 40
Daniel Massey: A satyr transformed by passion in Stratford's new Love's Labour's Lost

ARTS

ROCK page 41
Whitney Houston is back in Britain, stronger than ever but far less eager to please



GALLERIES: Old Master drawings from the Getty Museum; plus market news and recommended shows

Straight line is more direct

The art of drawing reveals great artists at their most unaffected and approachable, writes Richard Cork

What makes drawings so powerfully appealing? Modest in size, and often unable to make an impact at a distance, they lack the forceful attraction of paintings. The 120 drawings from the Getty Museum in Malibu, currently on show at the Royal Academy, are all of impressive quality. But they do not call to us loudly from the blue-grey walls of the Sackler Gallery. Nor does the subdued lighting, tailored to calm any curatorial fears about fading, enhance their capacity to beguile.

Once these fragile and often battered sheets of paper are seen near to, however, they soon exert their own fascination. Looking at drawings often brings us into far closer contact with artists than paintings ever can. We see their makers in private. Perhaps they are trying out the germ of an idea for a commissioned painting. Or maybe they are simply studying a figure, object or landscape because it seized their attention. Either way, the result admits us with astonishing directness to the artist's presence.

We can easily feel, gazing at the marks preserved on the yellowing paper, that their makers are inviting us to share their most intimate train of thought. Changes of mind which become hidden in complex paintings are here frankly exposed. Many of these drawings were made without any thought of exhibiting them. Preserved in portfolios, often after they had been rescued from the dust of the studio floor by quick-witted assistants, they were seen only by friends, admirers and would-be collectors. Artists who can appear remote in their impeccably polished canvases spring to unexpected life in the spontaneity of drawing. A far bolder and more improvisatory temperament is revealed, willing to take headlong risks and work with a vitality not so evident in paintings produced for public appraisal and consumption.

Take the marvellously spirited drawing of a reclining male nude by Parmigianino. The young Mannerist intended it as a study for the sleeping St Jerome in a tall altarpiece now owned by the National Gallery. The figure in the painting is a white-bearded old man, and his partially clothed body seems awkwardly placed in a cramped part

of the composition. But the drawing discloses that he was based on a young model. Parmigianino's pen defines his sinuous contours with electric assurance, and the bravura use of brown wash and white gouache ensures that the figure is quickened with pent-up dynamism.

Another Mannerist, the Utrecht-born Abraham Bloemaert, can seem irritatingly artificial and eccentric in his canvases. But his superb Getty drawing, *Three Studies of a Woman*, could not be more direct. Just as Watteau would do a century later, Bloemaert circles round his

model and combines different views on the same sheet. Possibly he was making studies for a Virgin in an unidentified Adoration scene, but the model depicted here looks unashamedly secular.

The most substantial of her three heads sports an elaborate coiffure, with tendrils plaited in patterns of Leonardo-like complexity. Her face, however, is drawn with refreshing candour. This is a flesh-and-blood young woman, quietly sitting for the artist. And the most captivating of the three heads shows her full-face, homely yet sensual, with breeze-blown hair and supple strokes of red chalk.

Not all the Getty exhibits are based on specially posed models. Rubens, an omnivorous student of other artists, derived most of the apostles in his sketch for a Last Supper from earlier paintings. Raphael, Caravaggio and Leonardo are among the artists whose figures have been borrowed in this ink drawing. But Rubens's innate energy transforms his sources. Welding his pen-nib almost with the force of a chisel, he carves out the conservation of men reacting to Christ's shocking announcement. The older apostles' fearfulness is juxtaposed with more impulsive,

even violent responses among the younger figures.

The sense of attack which makes this drawing so alive may surprise those familiar only with Rubens's most rhetorical paintings. Partly because he relied so much on workshop assistance, his canvases can seem laboured or overblown. But Rubens's true stature comes through unimpeded in drawings.

Look at the passionate curiosity informing his study of a man threshing beside a wagon. Rubens the international courier and supplier of ostentatious allegories is nowhere to be found in this alert, incisive drawing. Surely based on first-hand observation of farm life, it defines the structure of the wagon's sides, wheels and chassis with as much attentive authority as the thresher displays while lifting his implement in readiness to strike.

The immense breadth of Rubens's interests is arrestingly clarified in his draughtsmanship. How he met the Korean man who appears in a consummate chalk drawing is a mystery. Europe had almost no contact with Korea in the 17th century, but perhaps the man arrived with a Chinese mission. Far from seeing him merely as a bizarre exotic, Rubens engages with this heavily swathed figure in a warm and humane way. The Korean's strange, elongated headgear does not prevent the artist from regarding him with the instinctive sympathy animating the portraits of all the people whom Rubens knew best.

Sometimes, though, the greater licence encouraged by drawing prompts a sharper note in portraits. Holbein cannot be described as a painter who introduced acid criticism into images of sitters he disliked. But when he drew an unknown Tudor scholar or cleric during his second period in England, Holbein did not hesitate to pinpoint the williness of the man. With arched eyebrow, hooded lids and slightly sneering smile, this is a face to be mistrusted.

Although this sly and subtle portrait may be a study for a lost painting, it seems complete in itself. Holbein's unerring command of line has a sense of finality, and many of the finest drawings on show are as satisfyingly realised as his elaborate works on canvas. Goya's *Contemptuous of the Insults* may only be a small brush and ink work, carried



A flesh-and-blood young woman: *Three Studies of a Woman* by the Utrecht-born Mannerist, Abraham Bloemaert

out with great speed. But it belongs to a group of late drawings rightly described as "little pictures", and the double black borders which Goya drew around the image reinforce its self-sufficient character. By this stage in his life he had become splendidly uninhibited. Two dwarfs dressed as Napoleonic generals snarl and leer at an elderly Spanish gentleman. Doffing his hat with mock courtesy in one hand, he returns their venom by smiling and making a scornful gesture with his other

hand. He is probably Goya himself, showing how much he despises Spain's military oppressors.

When an artist pushes a drawing too hard toward the condition of painting, the outcome can be oppressive. Millet's *Shepherdess and Her Flock* uses black chalk and pastel to a stifling extent. He strives for the solidity of his painted version, now in the Louvre, and produces an image petrified with sentimental piety. Bowed as if in prayer, the shepherdess stands silhou-

etted before a sky where godlike shafts burst through a cloud.

Such religiosity soon cloyes, and in the end I found myself responding most of all to draughtsmanship unburdened by such pictorial elaboration. Pontormo's swift study of the dead Christ does not pretend to be definitive. Drawn over another study of a female figure, it bristles with corrections and obliterations. But the raw exposure of all these alternative marks adds to the image's intensity. Ema-

ciated and forlorn, Christ's limp body is riddled with agitated, conflicting lines which act as eloquent witnesses to the suffering he once endured.

Drawings from the J. Paul Getty Museum, sponsored by The Capital Group and supported by The Times, at the Royal Academy (071 430 7438) until Jan 23

In tomorrow's Weekend section, there will be an offer for Times readers to obtain discount entry to the Getty Exhibition

ART MARKET DIARY

Not so Seurat

SHOULD art experts use their expertise to earn cash? And how liable should they be when people start arguing over their attributions?

These issues could be raised at a forthcoming New York trial at which both the art dealers Wildenstein and Company and the distinguished post-Impressionist expert John Rewald will be accused of "fraud" and "deceptive trade practices" over the attribution of a painting, New Yorkers Anne and Arnold Garmowitz bought the work, *Le Paysan Travailleur*, for £400,000 in 1987 on the understanding that it was by Georges Seurat. Only to have it rejected for the major Seurat retrospective two years ago by another expert, Robert Herbert. Now, Rodney Brown, the lawyer representing the plaintiffs, says: "We are seeking a return of the money and damages."

PHOTOGRAPHY always was the poor cousin to fine art. Now the poor cousin is getting a boost with the announcement of the new Felix H. Mann prize by the National Museum of Photography. Although at £5,000 the reward hardly compares with the £20,000 disbursed to the Turner Prize winner, the event looks set to bring photography to the attention of the art world. Entries must be in the tradition of the legendary photo-journalist Felix Mann, who invented the photo-essay in the 1930s.

Fayre deal

HARRODS, they say, is capable of supplying anything within 24 hours. "The World's most famous store" is not necessarily associated with antiques, however. All this changes on November 12 when the first International Art and Antiques Fayre opens at the Knightsbridge department store with 85 prestigious dealers, including Warrski (jewellery), Richard Green (Old Master paintings) and William Drummond (English drawings and watercolours).

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

EXHIBITIONS: CRITIC'S CHOICE

● **SUZANNE PERLMAN:** A pupil of Kokoschka in the Fifties, Perlman certainly indicates some debt to his luminously coloured evocations of the London scene in hers. But she is far from an imitator: where Kokoschka makes London look curiously indistinguishable from Istanbul, Perlman is a great one for vivid and precise detail. Whether painting the Friends' Room at the Royal Academy, a fair in Covent Garden, or a double-decker passing the Angel, she captures the particu-

lar feel of the place while abating none of her expressionist dash and sometimes savage humour. Agi Katz Fine Arts, Boundary Gallery, 98 Boundary Road, NW8 (071-624 1126). Wednesday-Sat 11am-6pm, until November 20.

● **LES PLAISIRS DU JARDINAGE:** Much of French garden-making in the later 18th and early 19th centuries was taken up with the "jardin anglais", based on a vague conception of the English

landscape garden. In French hands it tended to become a succession of neatly contrived theatrical scenes, liberally scattered with chinoiserie. The designs are often all that remains, and are delightful artworks in themselves, as well as illuminating documents. In the main, this is an exhibition that gives us the perverse pleasure of seeing ourselves as others saw us. Hazlitt, Gooden and Fox, 38 Bury Street, SW1 (071-930 6422) Monday-Friday 10am-5.30pm, until November 19.

● **A VISION FOR VITERBO:** During the Prince of Wales's 1990 Summer School in Civil Architecture, students were asked to turn their attention to *inter alia*, the problems of the Italian medieval town of Viterbo, faced with suburban sprawl outside the walls and inner city decline. Designs for an undeveloped site within (to include an art gallery and university library) and a declining wholesale market on the perimeter were shown in Viterbo and excited much practical discussion. Now they are shown in London, to encourage deeper thought on similar problem sites in Britain. Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) Monday-Saturday 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sunday 12 noon-5.30pm, until November 5.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

DANCE: John Percival reviews David Bintley's new *Sylvia* for Birmingham Royal Ballet

Entertaining spectacle



Lovers: Miyako Yoshida, Kevin O'Hare in *Sylvia*

Sorry, Sylvia: David Bintley's latest ballet bears your name, but the most striking character in it is Eros, played as a white-haired German tourist given to practical jokes and funny disguises. And the show-stopping number is his dance as a black-bearded pirate with a wooden leg on which he hops, skips and produces a nifty line in pirouettes.

This is the nearest that Birmingham Royal Ballet's *Sylvia* comes to a "concept production", unless you count modern costumes for the men amid mythological Greek women, presumably hoping for a timeless feeling. Mostly Bintley, after initially nurturing many wild ideas (even to having his bald eunuch dance Delibes's famous pizzicato), found himself compelled by the music to stay close to the original plot.

His most significant change is making more of Diana, the violently feminist goddess of hunting, who blinds lovelorn Amynta as a punishment for supposedly seeing her take a bath. That gives Amynta good reason for failing to rescue Sylvia (his real love, but vowed to chastity as one of Diana's nymphs) from the lecherous hunter Orion, and provides Bintley with his best choreographic invention: a tender duet where Sylvia gradually falls for her blind admirer and his sight is eventually restored by love (equals Eros).

With such a musical base and his own showmanship, Bintley could hardly fail to provide an entertaining spectacle. The traditional text gives him good material that suits

his style: bold sweeping entries and languorous interludes for the sporty oymphs in Act I, sinister threats from Orion in Act II, and Sylvia's trick of staving him off with instantaneously fermented wine from some handy grapes: a surprise happy ending to Act III. He finds some unexpected new touches, too, notably the group of punkish, scruffy wood nymphs who start the action, but his classical numbers are less successful than the character ones.

Sue Blane dresses the dancers attractively, if often unconventionally: her amazonian nymphs clearly shop from some antique Katharine Hamnett. She maintains continuity with a background of rocks in each scene, with foreground decoration to provide a grotto, a gloomy room and a ruined temple by the sea, plus assorted statues, ships and mountain paths as required — even tum and tights for the last duet.

Two couples are dancing the leads. Miyako Yoshida is perhaps brighter in Sylvia's solos, Sandra Madgwick more touching in her captivity; both are excellent. Similarly, if Kevin O'Hare's bolder acting puts him just ahead as Yoshida's Amynta, Sergiu Pobreznic's solos are slightly more fluent. To match Mich-

Sylvia is (thanks be to PowerGen for sponsorship), the majority who never saw the 1952 Ashton-Trois production must trust us old codgers that it was conceptually, choreographically and decoratively the better version. Congratulations to BRB for bringing Delibes's ballet to life again, but will Covent Garden please now take the hint and revive its *Sylvia* too?

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LONDON

BETTY CARTER: Obit held as the first singer in jazz today, Carter plays with her Superband featuring Jack Chalkley, Dave Holland and Gen. Allen. Ronnie Scott and his group open the evening.

WALL STREET: South Bank SE1 (071-838 8800). Saturday, 7.30pm.

BRAM STOKER'S DRACULA: An indulgence of Halloween magic on the stage: a chortle gale showing of Francis Ford Coppola's chilling version of the horror classic in support of the Terrence Higgins Trust, the Frank Barnes School for Blind Children and the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund. Black cape optional.

St. James's Theatre, W1 (071-830 3232). Oct 31. Doors open 11.30pm.

DANCE UMBRELLA: Saburo Teshigahara, one of Japan's foremost choreographers, presents a new solo performance, *Sonnet in Paper*. Originally commissioned as a gallery installation, the piece uses fine shafts of light, glass screens and one thousand bottles and one thousand shoes as a backdrop.

Place Theatre, Dulwich Road, WC2 (071-837 0031). Tonight and Sat, 8pm.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

MADMAN OF THE BALCONIES: Opening night for the play by the excellent Peruvian novelist and presidential contender, Mario Vargas Llosa. Peter Egan stars as a professor, struggling to save the beleaguered of Lima from the bulldozer.

Globe, 11 Pentridge Rd, W11 (071-229 0705). Tonight and Sat, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BRISBANGHAM: Simon Rattle conducts an impressive cast in a concert performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Thomas Allen sings the eponymous role, one of the strongest roles in his repertoire, while Willard White in Leporello. The cast also includes Amanda Hargreaves, Lynne Dawson and John Cornell.

St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Sun, 7pm.

THESE RAGS: Water deepens the story of the play and the music in Julia Blandy's version of *These Rags*. The play is a comedy of manners, set in the 19th century, and is a masterpiece of the genre. The play is a comedy of manners, set in the 19th century, and is a masterpiece of the genre.

St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Sun, 7pm.

CAROUSEL: Tunes and cleverly set Rodgers and Hammerstein has the familiar story of the perspective and the music.

Shakespeare Theatre, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

CITY OF ANGELS: Top quality Lany Gorman's Coleman musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the world of the private eye movie.

Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

FOREVER PLAIN: General, and witty performance American show that pays homage to the four-part harmony groups of the 1950s.

Apollonia, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

HOT STUFF: The glitter and glam of the Seventies in a musical from Paul Kershaw.

Chicheley, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's riveting musical, a modern version of Preshley's social thriller.

Alphaville, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

IT'S A GREAT BIG SHAME: New Mike Leigh play, points out the grim reality of obsessive mania, twice in 1993 and 1994.

Theatre Royal, Gilly Street, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

MEDIA: Dore Rugg returns to the West End in a new production of a woman's revenge. Directed by

THEATRE GUIDE

Jersey King's assessment of theatre shows in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

THE PARTY CARD: Nicky Attman's comedy, set in jazz age, of two families scheming to obtain a prize cake. A UK premiere by the Wedding Collective.

New End Theatre, 27 New End, NW3 (071-794 0022). Open tonight, 8pm. Theatrical Sat, Sun, 2pm and 8pm. Sun 11 Nov 21.

PICKWICK: Henry Scowbonke tells of "I Ruled the World" as he looks at a 30th anniversary. A comic musical by good-hearted and bouncy.

St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

RACING DEMON: Revival of David Hare's brilliant drama on the modern Church of England, again with Michael Gambon, Richard Pasco and the excellent Oliver Ford Davies.

National Theatre, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

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St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Sun, 7pm.

NEW RELEASES

DIRTY WEEKEND (18): Michael Winner's cheap, corny version of Helen Mirren's novel about a female doctor turned mad. With Lisa Williams and Rufus Sewell.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

NOCTURNAL (18): Rowdy Halloween romp with Boris Becker, Sarah Jessica Parker and Kathy Najimy as a 17th century witch and her husband.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in 19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill and Harvey Keitel.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

MUCH AD ABOUT NOTHING (PG): Fast-food Shakespeare from Kenneth Branagh, with rickshaw actors, classical music, but little film.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

THE FUGITIVE (12): 1993's television series stars back to life with Harrison Ford as the fugitive trying to clear his name. With Tommy Lee Jones, director, Andrew Davis.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

OFFICIAL STREET (12): UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332) Warner (071-437 4543).

GROUNDHOG DAY (PG): Harold Ramis's modern-day fable, human comedy about a weatherman (Bill Murray) who always wakes up to the same day. With Andie MacDowell.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

MR WONDERFUL (12): Emotional work of a man who finds his wife's new man. Directed by David Mamet.

Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat 2.30pm, Sun, 2.30pm, 10.30pm.

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St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Sun, 7pm.

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a timeless comedy that overcomes changes in time

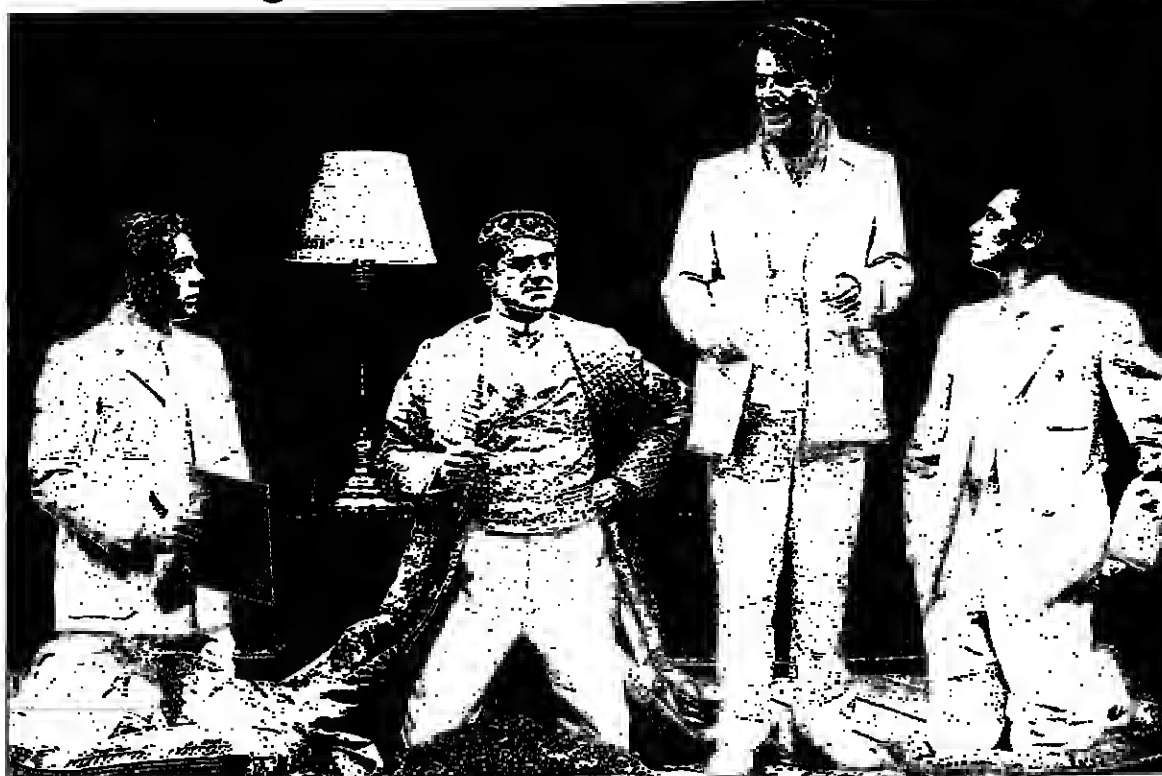
Flyte of fancy for Shakespeare

Love's Labour's Lost
RST, Stratford

THE last time the Royal Shakespeare Company performed *Love's Labour's Lost*, back in 1990, lovers from Ben Jonson waited in a landscape by Monet for ladies from Degas. This time, Ian Judge shifts the action to what, judging by the number of spires self-consciously dreaming away on the horizon, is rural Oxfordshire, and moves the date to 1910 or thereabouts. The sepia photo outside the theatre, showing the gallants lolling in a boat, sums up the overall feel very well. All four are floating through time and space in the vague direction of Brideshead.

There is nothing wrong with stressing the play's Englishness. When Shakespeare wrote *Vienna*, Messina or Bohemia at the top of a page, he tended to mean London, Stratford or Warwickshire. So we should not fret when Dull, the Navarre bobby, sits with his tankard beneath crossed oars in a Navarre pub, or when Sir Nathaniel, the Navarre vicar, claps a Navarre butcher's boy for hitting a six over the fence behind him. Perhaps we should even buy the curious moment before the curtain call, when the night sky lights up with distant explosions. Shakespeare did not have the Somme in mind, but he undoubtedly confronted his lovers with mood-changing intimations of mortality.

One of Shakespeare's lightest, sweetest plays? Judge's production is perfectly enjoyable as it stands. It looks gorgeous, thanks not only to the sensitive variations John Gutter plays on the theme of an old stone mansion, but to the cream blazers and black-and-silver evening dresses that have come from Deirdre Clancy's costume shop. Add lots of pastoral music, plus the singing



Floating in the vague direction of Brideshead: Robert Portal, Owen Teale, Jeremy Northam and Guy Henry

of some words normally spoken, and you have atmosphere enough.

There is also acting enough. Owen Teale thrusters ardently away as the king who gets his friends to abjure love only to join them in falling straight in it. If Jeremy Northam's Berowne does not justify his mistress's condemnation of his "gibing spirit", he brings wit and a happy-go-lucky charm to the task of

unwillingly toppling into the tender trap. But perhaps the most romantic figure onstage is an unexpected one: Daniel Massey, who plays the amorous Spaniard, Don Armado, as a forlorn Pan, a great moustachioed satyr transformed by passion into the most wistful of dreamers. With him rapturously gawping at the pull of love?

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OPERA: A warming experience of lovers in the North; a stirring warm-up for one lover in the Midlands

ENGLISH Touring Opera has a real success with its new production of Donizetti's comedy, because everyone concerned knows that at the heart of the piece is a loving relationship observed with extraordinary depth.

There are times when the laughter has to stop — in the first-act finale at "Adina, credimi", and at the final shootout for the lovers. The laughter did indeed stop in Stephen Medcalf's admirably sensitive staging, as the appreciative Yorkshire audience hung on every word and note while two proud, wilful, loving human beings inched uncertainly towards understanding and happiness. Tears were never far away.

But the production is also very funny. Medcalf and his designer Isabella Bywater set it in Carson McCullers country. Nemorino is a

Southern comfort zone

Deep South hayseed with blue dungarees and two left feet. Adina a landowner who would end up like one of Tennessee Williams's less-fulfilled heroines were she not to reach an understanding with him. Belcore is a pistol-packing sergeant in the US cavalry; and Dulcamara a travelling quack whose elixir comes in interestingly shaped bottles associated with a well-known soft drink. No matter: *Elisir* could be set in East Timor, provided the relationships are properly worked out, which they are.

Even more importantly, the produc-

tion has been very well prepared musically. Young ETO singers are unlikely to be engaged at La Scala next week, yet so far, thanks to first-rate coaching by the conductor Andrew Greenwood and his music staff, all were singing at the peak of their capabilities, and at times just above it.

Not that I would be surprised if Mary Plazas (Adina) eventually ended up at La Scala. Her bright, beautifully schooled soprano has a real glow at its core. In both her singing and her stage manner she put me in mind of the young Corubas.

The Irish tenor Niall Morris is not yet so finished a singer, but his tone is agreeably burnished, especially in half-note, and he is a natural actor. This Nemorino's eager, puppyish love-sickness touched the heart as well as the funny-bone.

Adrian Clarke's passing resemblance to John Wayne was a help in this particular production, and the only criticism I have of Jonathan May's Dulcamara is that he concentrated on beauty of tone at the expense of diction, the wrong priority in this particular role: more of Amanda Holden's ingenious new translation would have been welcome, although she was loyally served by the rest. A lovely evening. Audiences during the rest of the tour are in for a rare treat.

RODNEY MILNES

FOR Simon Rattle, who will be conducting a new production of *Don Giovanni* in the new theatre at Glyndebourne, this run of four performances with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra was an opportunity to get to grips with Mozart's opera without having to take the staging into account: costumes here are formal evening dress, with the addition only of two differently coloured pocket handkerchiefs to be exchanged by Giovanni and Leporello when they are meant to exchange identities. But the singers perform without scores, and there is a certain amount of acting.

The musical interpretation (much

Mozart's soul relayed bare

enhanced by John Constable's imaginative harpsichord playing) is stylish, brisk and consistently uneasy: there is always an anticipation of doom, which, of course, makes the final release into D major so much more radiant.

It is a rewarding evening for nearly all concerned. The possible exception is Christoph Hornberger who, as Don Ottavio in a strictly Prague version of the text, is deprived of "Dalla sua pace"

and who in the first performance coped not very well with "Il mio tesoro".

For Thomas Allen, on the other hand, it is clearly a happy experience. His voice is now a little dark for Giovanni, but he remains seductive, dominant, and so on with the part that he is almost a production himself.

Willard White is similarly secure on the minimal stage: clearly enjoying his exchanges with Geoffrey Dolton's

Masetto and John Connell's splendid Commendatore, he not only sings well but supplies just the right amount of characterisation for the circumstances. So does Christine Schaefer as a modestly delightful Zerlina. There is not much character in Amanda Hargreaves's Donna Anna, a role which is problematic enough with all the resources of the theatre to draw on, but she sings the part with remarkable ease. If Lynne Dawson hasn't quite accommodated Elvira's line to her voice, hers is a promising performance with much dramatic potential.

GERALD LARNER

ENTERTAINMENTS

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THEATRES

ADOLPH
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"Andrew Lloyd Webber's most successful work" New Yorker
Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232)

SUNSET BOULEVARD
"A genuine triumph" D. M.
"Andrew Lloyd Webber's most successful work" New Yorker
Widowmaker, W1 (071-830 3232)

THE ROYAL BALLET
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2.30pm
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CIRCUSES

BILLY SMART'S Richmond Old Deer Park. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Tel: 0171 830 3232

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THEATRE

THESE RAGS: Water deepens the story of the play and the music in Julia Blandy's version of *These Rags*. The play is a comedy of manners, set in the 19th century, and is a masterpiece of the genre. The play is a comedy of manners, set in the 19th century, and is a masterpiece of the genre.

St. James's Theatre, Dulwich Road (071-229 0705). Sun, 7pm.

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ART GALLERIES

ANTIQUE
CAUCASIAN RUGS & KILMS. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIXTY YEARS A LARGE SELLING OF CAUCASIAN RUGS & KILMS. SPECIALLY FOR THIS SHOW.

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حديقة متلا الامم

ROCK ON FRIDAY: John Hiatt strolls into the spotlight ... Whitney Houston reclaims it ... Kate Bush suffers in it

He writes songs the world sings

From Bob Dylan to Paula Abdul, the stars line up to record John Hiatt's wry roots-rock — and he's still not famous. Paul Sexton met him

He reached 40 only last year, but John Hiatt has been pickin' and grinnin' on his beloved guitar for 30 years. Long enough to know most of the vagaries of the warped industry via which he has become an unspoken hero.

Now basking in an immaculate reputation, both as an evocative frontman and one of the most widely covered songwriters of the age, Hiatt casts his mind back to the mid-1980s and a dues-paying period with Geffen Records, when a career that was already well into its second decade had yielded yards of good reviews but precious few sales.

I don't know if I'm a slow learner, thickheaded, confused, or all the above



Only just into his forties, John Hiatt has been playing guitar, singing and writing for 30 years, and is long overdue for overnight stardom

new album *Perfectly Good Guitar*, from which he will be performing fuel-injected workouts such as "Something Wild" and the more stately "Blue Telescope" during his gigs this weekend.

Hiatt was eager to return to solo work after the positive experience — but underwhelming end product — of the *Little Village* sessions. "Initially we were convinced we were making something brand new," Hiatt says of the album that transpired. "But somewhere it got lost, we wound up in what I call overdund hell, like, 'Maybe the kitchen sink would work well on this one.' I still think *Little Village* is an interesting record and every one feels there's a great record to be made by this band, and I have the feeling that we're probably going to have another go at it."

The new set sees Hiatt moving away from the personal observations of his last, loose trilogy of solo releases, and back to some sharper-edged story songs. It is produced by Matt Wallace, best known for his work with high-volume hairies Faith No More, and the singer

admits some oed to reclaim his youth by bending the meters a little this time. To that end, he had a new ally: his 16-year-old stepson Rob. "He got very interested in music, starting about three years ago," Hiatt says. "It was really something to watch this kid. He started off with Led Zeppelin and went on to heavy metal *du jour*, whatever was going, then into a lot of these new American bands. He started dragging his tapes home and we'd have to hear 'em in the morning when we took him to school. It's a good thing I liked 'em."

Indiana, there was a university there, and I would perform. I remember being really excited that these educated, bohemian types would even listen to me."

A lot of years and a few record company divorces later, Hiatt thinks he may finally be getting the hang of what he does. "My main motivation when I write these songs is to communicate, just so that you know there's somebody else out there who feels similar to yourself, you want to feel you're not unique in your troubles or your joys. It's a selfish motivation in that respect, I just want to connect."

KATE BUSH
The Red Shoes
(EMI EMD 1047)

IF HER work rate gets any slower, we'll be lucky to see another Kate Bush album this side of the millennium. Her first release of the 1990s, *The Red Shoes* is a typically bouncing, weaving patchwork of songs, dedicated to the memory of her mother, who died recently.

That ordeal, along with other personal traumas sustained during the period of writing and recording the songs, seems to have set Bush's creative nerves on edge. The result is a series of wild mood swings, from the bland calypso tilt of "Eat The Music" to the strikingly sad and strange cadences of "Big Stripes Lie", where Nigel Kennedy's morose violin competes with a marauding bass line and a discordant battery of industrial guitar noise supplied by Bush herself.

While her lyrics are sometimes oblique and always poetic, the emotions are as direct and unconcealed as any she has previously expressed. "Just being alive / It can really hurt" (from "Moments Of Pleasure") more or less sums up the mood, and even the superficially jolly tone of "Eat The Music" does not conceal the pain at the core of the song's fruity metaphor: "Split me open ... And rip my heart out."

There are telling guest performances from Eric Clapton (a shimmering, bluesy finale to "And So Is Love"), Jeff Beck (on a track called "You're The One"), vaguely reminiscent of "Purple Rain" and Prince himself, who brings his unique, squeaky magic to bear on Bush's composition "Why Should I Love You?"

INXS
Full Moon, Dirty Hearts
(Mercury 518 637)

AS A bona fide, international superstar group, who have survived a 17-year career without a single change of line-up, INXS have more right than most to be trading on past glories. If it's not quite yet time for a pseudo-anniversary boxed set or double greatest hits compilation, one would expect, at the very least, a pattern of long breaks be-

NEW RELEASES

Harrowing depths



A sad Kate Bush bares her soul on *The Red Shoes*

tween albums and monumental marketing campaigns to have set in by now.

Evidently not. Just one year after the superlative *Wavelength*, *To Wherever You Are*, the Australian six-piece return with another new album, released with a minimum of hype. And it sounds brilliant.

Assembled quickly, but with no lack of care and an abundance of passion, *Full Moon, Dirty Hearts* is a grainy collection of short, spiky songs with one or two slow, moodier pieces, that teems with an unlikely vitality.

Hefty guitar riffs fuel down-and-dirty rockers like "Days Of Rust" and "Make Your Peace", raucous harmony vocals by Ray Charles, no less, underpin the authentic-sounding r'n'b connections of "Please You Got That ..."; a strange instrumental dance between muted trumpet and feedback guitar propels "I'm Only Looking"; and on the magisterial chorus of the title

way of good-humoured distraction. There are, as ever, some great lines knocking about: "We're hip and we're groovy / Her aura whispers to me," Richard Fairbrass sings in his seductively husky croak on "She's My Mrs.", a song that starts with a peal of church bells and a snatch of the wedding march before taking off on a jaunty disco strut peppered with unlikely splashes of blues harmonica.

But the knowing humour and camp energy that abounded on last year's *Tug* is generally rather muted and, much as one might wish otherwise, *Sex And Travel* is an album which, like the classic holiday romance, quickly fades in the memory.

JACKSON BROWNE
I'm Alive
(Elektra 7559-61524)

IN THE 1970s, Jackson Browne was the archetype of the Californian singer-songwriter, a laid-back musician and seeker of emotional truths quietly beset by a host of demons. In the 1980s his work took on a more externalised, political focus but, with the hardening of the message came a professional smoothing out of the music, producing an imbalance between tone and content.

RIGHT SAID FRED
Sex And Travel
(Tug SNOG2)

HAVING done more than their share to reclaim the idea of pop as a three-minute exercise in harmless but always stylish fun, Right Said Fred seem to be running out of steam. Their appeal has always stretched a bit thin over the course of a whole album, but even "Bumped", their new single, lacks the cheeky sparkle of previous hits and remains stalled outside the busy, pre-Christmas Top 30.

Despite its title, the trio's second long-player does little to broaden the mind, its dozen tracks offering more in the

CONCERTS: A soul diva returns in triumph; godfathers of grunge blast away

Going back to Houston



Houston not clapped out

TWO years ago the unkind word was that Whitney Houston was finished as a brand leader. Her star, it was suggested, had been captured by newer names like Mariah Carey or the French Canadian Céline Dion, both specialising in a similar blend of bravura ballads and danceable pop.

That such a prediction was premature where British audiences are concerned has been shown by the nine stadium dates the singer has sold out in Birmingham, Sheffield and London. And, arriving on stage for the first of them on Wednesday night, she seemed in a mood to revel in her renewed superiority.

With greetings pared to the bare essentials and her portfolio of dramatic gestures put to immediate use on "Love Will Save The Day", it seemed this was to be a triumphant romp through her recorded glories. The *Ones* looked good for a show that put singing first, with showbiz a poor second.

Whitney Houston
Birmingham NEC

And perhaps it's the combination of these factors that led to her appearing far less eager to please than before, more inclined to let her public take her as they find her. Certainly there were fewer concessions to musical fashion in this show than in that promoting her last studio LP, 1990's *I'm Your Baby Tonight*.

The more street-conscious, dance-orientated material featured on that, her third album, was all but abandoned in favour of the roller-coaster ballads of which she has always been so fond. It used to irk the younger Houston when critics claimed that, creatively at least, she was prematurely middle-aged. Now it is as if she has stopped trying to fight her inclination towards material that would seem more the preserve of artists ten years her senior.

But that she was forced to compensate for an unaccounted difficulty in moving smoothly from middle to upper register and back again, exposed her glorious technical ability to closer than usual scrutiny.

It also added an additional element of drama — the can-shake-it factor — to songs already relying on her on-ashamedly dramatic approach. Two tracks from *The Bodyguard*, "I Have Nothing" and "I Will Always Love You", although pushed close to the point of self-parody by Houston's occasional faltering delivery, kept her audience even more spellbound as a result.

Ultimately, though, the evening was something of a frustrating one. The disparity between the singer's thrilling voice and the frequently bland lyrics on which she chooses to deploy it has been remarked upon many times before.

HAVING paved the way for Nirvana and Pearl Jam with a succession of stirring albums that were well ahead of their time, Soul Asylum finally enjoyed a significant — and gratifying — breakthrough of their own this year. In America, their sixth album, *Grave Dancers Union*, is celebrating its 50th week in the *Billboard* chart, but it was their recent hit single, "Runaway Train", that really put the band from Minneapolis into the frame worldwide. With its delicately cascading chord sequence and clever wordplay conjuring up a fine line in romantic melancholia, this number was something of a Trojan horse; a legitimate part of the group's repertoire, maybe, but also a means of smuggling a much heavier package of goods into the heart of the mainstream rock market.

Certainly anyone who went to the Astoria on Wednesday expecting an entire evening of such gentle treatment would have been violently disabused of the idea within 20 seconds of the band's opening shot, "Somebody To Shove". As the jittery verse flowered into a full-throated chorus, whacked out at supergun volume, the heaving mass of fans crammed on the

Attitude dancing
Soul Asylum
Astoria, WC2

dancefloor responded to the thrust of the title literally, and bodies were soon bouncing off the walls.

With his jeans ripped out at the knees, a derelict white T-shirt exposing well-toned arms, and his face obscured by a lank mess of blond hair, singer and guitarist Dave Pirmer looked a picture of neanderthal chic. Compared to such heroic dishevelment, the rest of them looked disappointingly normal, like overgrown college kids. There was nevertheless a bracing air of do-or-die as they cranked the volume yet higher and set sail on the even chopper waters of "All The King's Friends" and "Keep It Up".

If there is one thing that the grunge revolution has contributed it has been in persuading very loud rock bands to conquer their instinctive fear of an attractive melody. A timely reminder that Soul Asylum were pioneers in this regard came when they changed gear to play "Cartoon", a jangly descending riff with spot-on harmony vocals, taken from their 1988 album *Hang Time*. There was more muscle ("April Fool", "Black Gold"), more melody ("Homesick") and the inevitable "Runaway Train" and a high-powered cover of the old Eddie and the Hot Rods hit "Do Anything You Wanna Do" before the feedback-drenched climax of "99%".

The worst thing about grunge is the dismal, ton-and-a-half of "attitude" which all bands now feel obliged to drag around. Again Soul Asylum proved their bona fides by responding with petulant disdain to what they evidently perceived to be insufficient applause from the crowd at the end. They did a couple of half-hearted encores, but their foolish and boorish handled misreading of the situation soured an otherwise enjoyable gig.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 Bat Out Of Hell II ... Meat Loaf (Virgin)
- 2 One Woman — The Ultimate Collection ... Diana Ross (EMI)
- 3 Everything Changes ... Take That (HCA)
- 4 Duets ... Frank Sinatra (Capitol)
- 5 Bang! The Greatest Hits ... Frankie Goes To Hollywood (ZTT)
- 6 Experience The Divine Betty Midler ... Betty Midler (Atlantic)
- 7 So Close ... M People (deConstruction)
- 8 Elegant Slumming ... Pearl Jam (Epic)
- 9 VS ... Crowded House (Capitol)
- 10 Together Alone ... Crowded House (Capitol)

DAVID SINCLAIR

DAVID SINCLAIR

Morrison faces task of convincing doubters

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN TULSA

TOMMY Morrison, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, has been written off many times as a lost cause by boxing experts, especially those who saw the great heavyweights of the Seventies. Morrison has been described as a "white Frank Bruno, who is big, chunky and marketable". An American reporter once said he was "the best-looking prospect in years; not the best fighter, merely the best-looking".

But in these days of mediocrities, Morrison has a chance of progressing further and far better than white heavyweights had in the days of Ali, Frazier, Foreman and Holmes. He boxed well against Foreman, the old man, last June to lift the title. He did not look at all overmuscled and predictable — or even chunky — like the Bruno that pushed Lennox Lewis for seven rounds at the beginning of this month.

All the same, the experts still believe Lewis will have no trouble disposing of Morrison when they meet in March. Only Morrison's trainer, Tommy Virgees, thinks his man will relieve Lewis of the World Boxing Council belt. Virgees made the journey from Kansas to Cardiff to see if Lewis would be too good for Morrison. Afterwards, he said: "I wondered whether Lewis was ready for Morrison."

After Lewis's disappointing performance against Bruno and in view of the fact that Morrison is to be his next opponent, it is a pity that Lewis did not take a leaf out of Virgees's book and make the trip to Tulsa to learn a little more about his opponent, who is defending his title against Michael Bennit, a London-born New Yorker here tonight. No doubt, in the mind of Lewis

and his manager, Frank Maloney, Morrison is merely there to help Lewis make more millions.

Bob Arum, the promoter of the Las Vegas bout against Morrison, was surprised that neither Lewis nor Maloney had come, even just to appear after the bout to publicise the encounter in March. "I'm very disappointed that Lennox Lewis hasn't bothered to come here," Arum said. "He has a duty to help sell the fight with Morrison. It seems to me that Lennox has already lost interest in boxing, possibly because he is so rich."

The reason he has given is that he is busy publicising his book. What he gets from book sales is peanuts compared to his ring earnings. "Right now I would favour Morrison to beat Lewis," Arum said. "It's nuts for Lewis and Maloney not to be here. Morrison was training for this fight when his trainer, Tommy Virgees, left camp to go over to Wales, not to pay respects to Lewis but to see what information he could pick up from watching him."

Even if Morrison loses, Lewis would have learnt something about Bennit, who could be his next opponent. Even though Bennit, who was born in Dulwich, left Britain 21 years ago and returned only twice, briefly, once to box for the United States against Ireland and then to act as Gary Mason's sparring partner, he considers himself British and said that if he won, he would box out of London.

He is an excellent boxer, having won four New York Golden Gloves titles and four national championships. He has beaten eight times in a distinguished amateur career of 167 contests. He would have represented the United States at the Seoul Olympics if he



Bennit insists he can beat Morrison to become another London-born world champion

had not lost to Ray Mercer in the box-off. But he quickly found the professionals to be different from the amateurs. He was knocked out in his first bout, against Jerry Jones, a journeyman.

So depressed was he that he gave up boxing. His father, George, who had won \$2 million (£1,333,000) in a New York lottery did not help him

financially and Bennit had to work for 18 months at the Long Island Jewish hospital for \$9 (£6) a day. He would still have been sterilising laboratory equipment had he not been engaged by Mason as his sparring partner. He saw that Mason, then No 5 in the world, could not teach him anything and he decided to return to boxing in 1989. He

has won all ten of bouts since he returned. If Bennit can stay away from Morrison's big left hook, he could cause a big upset. That seems highly unlikely. Bennit is known as an "on top fighter", which means that once Morrison lands a big punch, it could be all over. Even if Bennit gets past the early rounds, that punch could come around round seven.

Nation's finest indulge in a little hero worship

Simon Barnes watches the Oxford Union welcome its first world heavyweight champion



And so, chewing hard and grinding unceasingly, for the first time in history, the present heavyweight boxing champion of the world (well, one of them) walked through the double doors and into the chamber of the Oxford Union. It was brave of him to take it on, you thought, courageous to invite a grilling by the white-hot minds that will surely rise to all kinds of eminences in the next decade or so.

Lennox Lewis, a citizen of the 21st century himself, being neither African, Jamaican, Canadian nor British, but all four, or a citizen of the world if you prefer, was greeted by a packed chamber. They sat on the floor, they squeezed into benches, they crammed the gallery and they perched on window ledges.

From the second Lewis walked in, the tone was set: whistling, cheering, thunderous applause and great cries of "whoopi", this being the way Americans greet their sporting heroes, and since Lewis's life now involves baseball caps, which are now a *de rigueur* item of student life, it seemed only right to extend the general tone of the gathering from personal sympathy towards Lewis to a general sympathy towards the United States as well. These people are avidly preparing the ground for the 51st state.

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, briefly outlined the course of his life with Lewis, promised that neither he nor Lewis would duck any questions and the floor was thrown open to those who sought wisdom. Well, there are two kinds of questions: one in which you seek an answer and one in which you seek to create an effect. We had plenty of both.

It did not take Lewis long to get the pace of the pitch, for he is nobody's fool. If he had nurtured the impression that Oxford undergraduates were somehow unlike anybody else, he was swiftly disabused. They had packed



Lewis: on the spot

Teetee. A noisy gentleman in a hat and a plastic mac, clearly one of Oxford's traditional licensed eccentrics, burst in and asked questions about brain damage, but he was shouted down. Perish the thought that we should take the question of brain damage seriously — after all, it is not our white-hot brains that are in danger, is it?

No. Far more important to talk about Lewis's ambitions to become undisputed champion within two years and then retire. Lewis mentioned Ali and went up a ritual cheer for the great brain-damaged hero. This

was, after all, a ritual occasion rather than one of exploration.

True, someone tried to change this, a sharp-minded gentleman across the chamber. Did Lennox feel any problems working in a society that at best creates an environment that permits racism and is at worst racist? A couple of muted hisses. What? Asking the champ a difficult question? Worse, an important question?

Lewis sought refuge in flippancy. He knew he could get away with it. He had the meeting with him, after all. "No, I don't," he said, producing the phrase as if he were Oscar Wilde. Applause. Clap, clap. Whoopi! So much for not ducking questions.

Lewis expanded in the warm atmosphere. He confessed that he was worried by the near-death in the ring of Michael Watson: "It was very disturbing. Every time I go into the ring, my mother is worried."

But, in the end, it was simply a nice evening for the students, a chance to gaze upon a champion, relish the incongruity of such a man in such a place, a chamber ringed with the busts of long-departed students who had gone to be prime ministers and thronged with the ghosts of centuries of undergrads.

So what was it all about? It was an attempt to make Lewis loved. To mention Bruno to the Lewis camp is like mentioning Cambridge in the Oxford Union: difficult, uncomfortable, improper. Lewis is touring Britain in an attempt to make himself more British — more accepted, more loved. This was one stop on the tour and it worked well for him. The boy Lewis went to the Oxford Union and the boy Lewis done good.

House of Lords

Law Report October 29 1993

Queen's Bench Division

Conditions in planning consents

British Railways Board v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another. Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Templeman, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill. [Speeches October 28]

The mere fact that a desirable planning condition appeared to be unenforceable did not mean that planning permission had necessarily been refused.

It was not irrational to grant planning permission subject to a condition which had no reasonable prospects of being implemented or to refuse planning permission on the ground that a desirable condition had no reasonable prospects of implementation and therefore could not be imposed.

Jones v Secretary of State for Wales and Gwynedd Borough Council (1993) 61 P & CR 238 was wrongly decided and had to be overruled. The House of Lords held allowing an appeal by the British Railways Board against the dismissal on October 6, 1992 by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Kennedy and Lord Justice Hirst) (1992) 65 P & CR 401 of its appeal against the refusal by Mr Gerald Moriarty, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, of its application to quash the refusal of the Secretary of State for the Environment and another to grant planning permission for the development of land at Feltham.

Mr Jeremy Sullivan, QC and Mr Nicholas Houskinson for British Railways Board; Mr John Howell, QC and Miss Natalie Levens for the Secretary of State; Houslow did not appear.

LORD KEITH said the British Railways Board had sought planning permission from Houslow London Borough Council to develop part of the former Feltham marshalling yard for housing. The proposed development required vehicular access over land owned by the council, which had failed to determine the application within the statutory time.

An inspector appointed by the secretary of state had recommended that the application be granted subject to a condition that the works to provide the main access road be completed to base level before building of houses should begin on the site. The secretary of state required British Rail to confirm the completion of a legal agreement with the council to allow the road-building to proceed. Houslow, on environmental grounds, had refused to make an agreement and the secretary of state had taken the view that there was no reasonable prospect of the agreement being made. The planning permission was granted on the basis that he was precluded in law from granting the permission subject to conditions which appeared to have no reasonable prospect of fulfillment within the five-year life of the

permission. British Rail had applied to the High Court under section 288 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to quash the secretary of state's decision. The application had been dismissed by Mr Moriarty and on appeal by the Court of Appeal.

By section 29(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 a local planning authority might grant planning permission "either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as they think fit". Lord Lane in *Newbury District Council v Secretary of State for the Environment* (1988) AC 578, 627 had indicated that where a local authority attached to a planning consent a condition which was unreasonable in the *Wednesbury* sense (1948) 1 KB 223 an appeal by the developer would be allowed to the effect of rendering the consent free of the condition.

However, it appeared to have come about that the law was viewed, particularly in the Court of Appeal, as being to the effect that if a condition which on its merits was reasonable and necessary on planning grounds had no reasonable prospects of fulfillment then that condition could not validly be imposed and planning permission had to be refused.

That view was apparently thought to be supported by a passage in his Lordship's speech in *Grampian Regional Council v City of Aberdeen District Council* (1984) 47 P & CR 633, 636-637. In that case it had been argued before the House of Lords that there was no practical distinction between a condition requiring a result which it was not within the power of the applicant to bring about and one providing that no development should begin until that result had been achieved. In either case the practical effect was to require the applicant to bring about something not within his power.

In rejecting that argument his Lordship had said: "There is a crucial difference between the positive and the negative type of condition in this context, namely that the latter is enforceable while the former is not. In the second place, the reasonableness of any condition has to be considered in the light of the circumstances of the case. In this case the proposed development put forward by the first respondents were found by the inspector to be generally desirable in the public interest. The only aspect of them which was regarded as disadvantageous was the traffic problem they would be likely to cause at the Fintona Junction. That problem was capable of being solved by the closing of the southern part of Wellington Road, something which had at least reasonable prospects of being achieved under statutory powers to that effect. In the circumstances it would have been not only not unreasonable but highly appropriate to grant planning permission subject to the condition that the development was not to proceed unless and until the clo-

sure had been brought about. In any event, it is impossible to view a condition of that nature as unreasonable and not within the scope of section 29(1) of the Act if regard is had to the provisions of section 198."

In *Jones v Secretary of State for Wales and Gwynedd Borough Council*, a decision of the Court of Appeal which that court had followed in the present case, the court had regarded his Lordship's speech as laying down that a negative condition was necessarily unreasonable in the *Wednesbury* sense unless there was a reasonable prospect of it being fulfilled.

In the Court of Appeal in the instant case Lord Justice Dillon had said it was a nonsense to grant a planning permission subject to a condition which the planning authority or the secretary of state on appeal knew there was no reasonable prospect of the applicant being able to satisfy.

As his Lordship had observed in *Grampian*, the question whether or not a certain condition was unreasonable depended on the circumstances of the case. The circumstances of this case were such that the proposed condition was not only reasonable but highly appropriate.

It was a mistake, however, to turn the decision on its head to the effect of treating it as carrying the necessary implication that a condition was unreasonable and invalid if it did not have such reasonable prospects.

The 1971 Act contemplated that an application for planning permission might be made by a person who did not own the land to which it related, as was plain from section 27(1)(b).

The owner of the land to which the application related might object to the grant of planning permission on planning grounds. But if those grounds were unrelated to the mere fact that the owner objected and was unwilling that the development should go ahead could not in itself necessarily lead to a refusal of permission.

The planning authority's function was to decide whether the proposed development was desirable in the public interest. The answer to that question was not to be affected by the consideration that the owner of the land was determined not to allow the development so that permission, if granted, would not have reasonable prospects of being implemented.

That did not mean that the planning authority, if it decided that the proposed development was in the public interest, was absolutely disentitled to take into account the improbability of permission for it, if granted, being implemented. For example, if there were two competing sites for a desirable development, difficulties of bringing about implementation on one site which were not present on the other might very properly affect the choice of site to receive permission.

But there was no absolute rule that the existence of difficulties, even if apparently insuperable, necessarily had to lead to refusal of planning permission for a desirable development. A would-be developer might be faced with difficulties of many different kinds, in the way of site assembly or securing the discharge of restrictive covenants.

If he considered it was in his interests to secure planning permission notwithstanding the difficulties, it was not for the planning authority to refuse it simply on their view of how serious the difficulties were.

In the present case, the position was essentially that British Rail had applied for planning permission affecting land not in its ownership, a common state of affairs specifically contemplated by the Act. The proposed condition did not relate to land outside the ambit of the permission sought.

Even if it had, the relevant considerations would have been the same as those to be applied when an application for planning permission related to land not owned by the applicant.

If the condition was of a negative character and appropriate in the light of sound planning principles, the fact that it appeared to have no reasonable prospects of being implemented did not mean that the grant of planning permission subject to it would be irrational in the *Wednesbury* sense so that it would be unlawful to grant it.

If it was irrational to grant planning permission subject to a condition which had no reasonable prospects of being implemented then it must be no less irrational to refuse planning permission on the ground that a desirable condition had no reasonable prospects of implementation and therefore could not be imposed.

In truth, neither course was irrational. What was appropriate depended on the circumstances and was to be determined in the exercise of the discretion of the planning authority.

But the mere fact that a desirable condition appeared to have no reasonable prospects of fulfillment did not mean that planning permission had to be refused. Something more was required before that could be the correct result.

The secretary of state had misdirected himself in law in considering that imposition of the proposed condition regarding the access road to the development would be irrational.

His Lordship would allow the appeal and remit the matter to the secretary of state for reconsideration in the light of the judgment of the House.

Jones v Secretary of State for Wales and Gwynedd Borough Council had been wrongly decided and had to be overruled.

Lord Templeman, Lord Jauncey, Lord Browne-Wilkinson and Lord Mustill agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Andrew Sims, Treasury Solicitor.

GFI Group Inc v Eaglestone. Before Mr Justice Holland. [Judgment October 5]

A highly paid, highly skilled options broker whose customer connections had been extensively fostered at his employer's expense would have been held to his obligation imposed by his contract of employment to refrain from engaging in any business other than that of his employer during a 20-week period of notice but for the fact that two fellow employees had completed their periods of notice and were already working for the employer's prospective new employer.

Mr Justice Holland so held in the Queen's Bench Division when varying an order obtained *ex parte* by the plaintiff employer, GFI Group Inc, restraining the defendant employee, Lawrence Eaglestone, until trial or further order from engaging in any business other than the business of the employer until December 23, 1993.

Mr Michael Burton, QC and Mr Alan Saggerson for the employee; Mr Eddard Tabachnick, QC and Mr Adrian Lynch for the employer.

MR JUSTICE HOLLAND said that the employee acted as a middleman between potential buyers and sellers of "over-the-

counter" options on currencies, government bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

The employee was an options broker on his dollar based foreign exchange desk. The working relationships built up by a good broker with his traders were potentially very profitable indeed to the employer.

In the past year on behalf of the employer the employee had paid out £59,616 by way of expenses aimed at nurturing his relationship with the trader customers.

The employee's contract of employment was determinable by either party giving 20 weeks notice. Clause 3 provided that the employee should not, without consent, during the continuance of the contract be engaged in any trade or business other than the business of the employer.

Earlier in the year an approach on the part of brokers intent on entering into competition with the employer resulted in letters, dated August 5, 1993, from the employee and two fellow employees giving notice to terminate their employment.

The employer obtained the *ex parte* order which the employee now sought to have set aside or varied so as to allow him to work for the competitor before the

termination of the 20-week notice period.

Both parties had invited the court to approach the matter on the basis that the contract provided continuing obligations, in particular those raised by clause 3.

Further, the employer undertook to pay the employee his salary and bonuses to the end of the period covered by any order and not to claim back such sums as damages for breach of contract.

The employee was an exceptionally highly paid employee of experience and standing who had had his personal relationships with the employer's customers carefully and expensively fostered at the employer's expense.

Were he to move directly to a commercial rival he would enable such rival to have some substantial benefit from the customer connection built up through the employer's employment of and investment in him.

Unless there was an interim period between employments the employer would suffer damage, reflected in loss of goodwill, which could not be readily quantifiable in terms of damages.

Turning to the balance of convenience governing the issuing of the remedy, the only question, given

the undertakings tendered, was whether the order should be sustained for the full 20 weeks.

There was strong guidance from the authorities that a court should not grant more relief than was absolutely necessary to protect the situation.

The fellow employees, who were on a four-week notice period, were now working for the competitor. Given that, the question was whether it was really necessary, in order to protect the interests of the employer, for the remainder of the 20 weeks to pass before the employee could join them.

His Lordship had come to the view that the best balance was to substitute a period of 13 weeks and vary the order to restrain the employee until November 4.

Had it not been for the position of the fellow employees his Lordship would have been strongly motivated to hold the employee to his word.

If there was a current impression that the periods in contracts negotiated with highly paid, highly skilled employees did not have the meaning that they purported to have, then the sooner that was corrected the better.

Solicitors: Wilde Sapte, Magrath & Co.

Court has no jurisdiction to hear appeal

Regina v Jennings. Regina v Johnson. Regina v Mullins. Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Turner and Mr Justice Judge. [Judgment September 27]

The Court of Appeal had no jurisdiction to entertain applications for leave to appeal against a refusal by a crown court judge at a preparatory hearing to order counts in the indictment to be severed from the rest, an application for severance not being one of the purposes set out in section 7(1)(a) to (d) of the Criminal Justice Act 1987.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing applications for leave to appeal by Malcolm Jennings and Charles Alan Johnson, two of three defendants, against the refusal of Judge Michael Addison at Portsmouth Crown Court on December 9, 1992 to grant their applications to sever two counts, not against them but against the third defendant, Alexander James Mullins, from the twelve counts in the indictment.

Section 7 of the 1987 Act provides: "(1) Where it appears to a judge of the crown court that the evidence on an indictment reveals a case of fraud of such seriousness and complexity that substantial benefits are likely to accrue from a preparatory hearing before the jury are sworn, for the purpose of

(a) identifying issues which are likely to be material to the verdict of the jury; (b) assisting their comprehension of any such issues; (c) expediting the proceedings before the jury; or (d) assisting the judge's management of the trial, he may order that such a hearing shall be held."

Section 9 provides: "(1) At the preparatory hearing the judge may exercise any of the powers specified in this section:— (2) He may determine— (a) any... question of law relating to the case."

Section 9(1) provided for an appeal but only with the leave of the judge or of the Court of Appeal.

Mr Christopher Clark, QC and Mr Justin Gau for the Crown; Mr Raymond Walker, QC and Mr Bruce Stuart for Jennings; Mr Daniel Hollis, QC and Mr Geoffrey Birch for Johnson; Mr David Howard Evans, QC and Mr Mark Ellison for Mullins.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said the first question was whether the Court of Appeal had jurisdiction to entertain at that interlocutory stage an appeal against a refusal to sever counts made on a preparatory hearing held under section 7 of the Criminal Justice Act 1987. On September 22, the Court of Appeal, identically constituted, in the case of *R v Virani* heard a submission by counsel for the Crown on a similar application to the effect that there was no right of

appeal under section 9(1). The court then expressed the view that it was not attracted by that submission, but the matter was not substantially argued and the court was not referred to the case of *In re Gunawardena, Harbutt, Banks* (1990) 1 WLR 703 and *R v Moore* (unreported, February 5, 1990).

In *Gunawardena* the appellants were charged with corruption and conspiracy fraud, and at the preparatory hearing an application was made to stay the indictment, on the basis of an abuse of process as a result of long delay.

The trial judge rejected the application, concluding that he had no jurisdiction to grant leave to appeal under section 9(1).

The Court of Appeal, on an application for leave, refused the application and held that for the purposes of section 9 the right of appeal was limited to circumstances giving rise to matters in connection with paragraphs (a) to (d) of section 7(1).

It might be possible to argue that an application seeking severance, for the purpose of reducing complexity, might be capable of giving rise to a right of appeal under paragraph (a), but even if such an appeal were possible it would in any event relate to an exercise of the judge's discretion and it could only succeed if that discretion were shown to have been fundamentally flawed.

But that was not the present case: the basis for the application here was not complexity but prejudice.

The court would only add that there had recently been a plethora of applications for leave to appeal against judges' rulings at preparatory hearings. Such applications, by their nature, had to be dealt with urgently. The consequence was that, as in this case in particular, final appeals had to be taken out of the list, with consequential continued anxiety to appellants.

There was a clear duty on barristers and solicitors, to be underlined where public funding was involved, to scrutinise anxiously to see (i) whether there was jurisdiction in the court to entertain the appeal, and (ii) whether there was any real prospect of successfully arguing that the judge's exercise of his discretion had been fundamentally flawed. If it appeared that such anxious scrutiny had not taken place, the court would not be slow to make appropriate orders as to costs.

The court's conclusion was that it had no jurisdiction to entertain the applications, but if that were wrong, the court had no hesitation in saying that the applications were without merit.

Solicitors: Serious Fraud Office; Betcher Row & Co, Manchester; Lloyd Brennan & Co, Bradford; Stephenson Harwood.

حکومت الاموال

Squidgers, squops and the flip side of success



FREUD ON FRIDAY

The 39th challenge for the world tiddly-winks title takes place this evening in a private room at St Cross College, Oxford. The champion, an Englishman from Hendon, won the title in Boston, Massachusetts, in September 1992, has comfortably defended it twice and is favourite to retain it. This week, I invited him to dinner. The world champion arrived carrying a roll of white industrial super-felt and a cigar box containing his equipment. He is slight, studious, bespectacled, looks like a ringer for the man on the No 13 omnibus, turned out to be the man on the No 13 omnibus.

Mr Geoffrey Myers, for it is he, is 25 years old, has a first-class degree in economics from Cambridge, a masters from Oxford, and works as a senior economic assistant at the Office of Fair Trading. He drank a glass of Sancerre, sweated a bit, posed for the photographer with practised ease while using a two-inch squidger to flick winks into the small red plastic pot with deadly accuracy. Success at tiddly-winks, he explained, is a mixture of skill, tactics and strategy. The championship tonight is contested over seven games, each consisting of 20 minutes of play, whereafter red, green, blue and yellow have five rounds at the pot apiece. Dinner will be served after two games and play resumes at 8pm. The result should be available to a waiting world by 10pm.

What will there be for dinner? He shrugs his shoulders. There is no traditional tiddly-winks food. Real ale is the popular drink. In Britain, the game at the highest level is played only at Oxford, Cambridge and St Andrews, seems to appeal to scientists rather than students of the arts, is shunned by women, has not yet attracted black or oriental support. I ask how long it takes to achieve genuine proficiency. Myers said it took him



Myers is a study in concentration as he takes aim before launching his quest to retain the world tiddly-winks title in Oxford tonight. Photograph: James Morgan

about two years to get to championship standard, then another two years before he started to win. His great moment came in Massachusetts when he took the title by 25 points to 24, his opponent having had a pot to win which he missed. How was the atmosphere? Myers said it was electric. How big the crowd? Myers said it was in the high single figures, though tonight there is every likelihood of this being exceeded. The real problem, he opined as he ate poached salmon with mousseline sauce, is that the crowd needs a certain level of knowledge to understand the game. For

the opening phase it will see the players position themselves advantageously, rarely achieving a pot-out, but building piles as high as ten winks, deploying intricate positional strategies, thinking three or four moves ahead. They deliberate on the hardware as golfers do... though in oddity-winks there is no limit to the number of utensils you may carry. The world champion has eight different squidgers with which to propel the winks: a two-inch squidger with a sharp, firm edge for potting—though if it is very close to the pot and the wink is small (they come in two sizes for no particular reason other than

to make it more difficult, he would deploy the one-inch flexible squidger. There is a squidger for a low squop (squop is when a wink covers that is what the skill of the game is about," Myers explained. I had rather intended to challenge the world champion. Myers said it was in the high single figures. Another and holds it captive, until it, in turn, is squopped and released, and one for "uncultured shots", like breaking up a sizable pile. "You play to your advantage,

on, had considered the consequences of my victory: the glory, the plaque on my house, the plaque on my side for autographs. We did not play. I watched Myers squidge a wink from under the lip of the concave cup high into the air and straight into the receptacle; then squidge another 15 inches along the felt to land squarely on an opponent and realised that my playing the world champion at tiddly-winks would be as close a contest as my challenging Pete Sampras at tennis. Also, he admitted that in the 13 months since winning the world championship, he has yet to be mobbed at a table, which gave me even less incentive. Myers ate blackcurrant jelly and cream, drank both white and red wine, took his coffee black without sugar—

though today he will eschew caffeine in order to ensure a steady hand. After a while he rolled up his felt, kindly offered to leave me a box of winks and squidgers. "We are aware that tiddly-winks, at the moment, is only a minority sport," the publicity officer of the society had written, "but we are anxious to see the game increase in stature." Their motto is *Hic squop ibi squop ubique squop squop*. If the Savoy Theatre is reluctant to provide the venue for the next championship contest, perhaps old McDonalds will.

Bowlers at sixes and sevens in lively exchanges

FROM DAVID RHYS JONES IN SUN CITY, FLORIDA

COMPETITORS in the Atlantic Rim outdoor bowls championships at Sun City Center, Florida, are, quite literally, at sixes and sevens. Big counts are enlivening the proceedings and changing the course of many matches.

Round three had seen a flurry of sevens, three of them bringing late victories to Wales and Guernsey in triples and Ireland in pairs.

Round six, yesterday, was replete with sixes: Scotland hit Jersey for six in triples, but dropped a six against the Channel Islanders in pairs; Namibia scored a six against the United States on the way to a notable double; England and Wales both claimed sixes in a triples encounter.

Rita Jones's Welsh trio, unbeaten in their first five matches, looked to be heading for a comfortable victory over England, skippered by Margaret Heggie, when two fateful ends scuppered their chances. Leading 12-6 after ten ends, they trailed 12-7 after 12, having dropped a fashionable six followed by a five.

Wales exacted revenge in the pairs, however, when Linda Evans and Betty Morgan spoiled England's clean sheet, having much the better of the second half. Gwen Daniel, of Cornwall, and Norma Shaw, of Durham, were level with the Welsh 6-6 at ten ends, but conceded 12 shots to seven over the last 11.

Guernsey's 15-14 victory in the triples was a blow to South African morale. They had lost by the same margin to Jersey on Wednesday.

RESULTS: Pairs: Fifth round: Scotland (J Lindores and S McCrewe) bt United States, 25-14; Namibia bt Spain, 26-11; South Africa bt Jersey (M LeMarquand and S Syrett), 24-8; Ireland (B Cameron and P Nolan) bt Wales (L Evans and B Morgan), 23-12; Guernsey (J Nicole and A Simon) bt Argentina, 24-18; England (G Daniel and N Shaw) bt Canada, 23-9. Sixth round: Namibia bt United States, 27-19; Scotland bt Jersey, 29-16; Ireland bt Spain, 21-12; South Africa bt Guernsey, 22-14; Wales bt England, 18-13; Canada bt Argentina, 19-13.

Triples: Fifth round: United States bt Scotland (S Courtney, J Maxwell, F Whyte), 15-14; Spain bt Namibia, 30-19; South Africa bt Jersey (S Nightingale, V Stead, J Jones), 19-18; Wales (M Davies, V Howell, R Jones) bt Ireland (M Aled, C O'Connor, F Elliott), 17-11; Guernsey (J Simon, E Thompson, S Paul) bt Argentina, 26-18; England (S Page, E Bessell, M Heggie) bt Canada (J McCrewe, F Whyte), 24-15. Guernsey bt South Africa, 15-14; England bt Wales, 25-18; Canada bt Argentina, 23-12.

Senna let off hook to race in Australia

BY OLIVER HOLT

AYRTON Senna will not face punishment for his alleged attack on the Irish driver, Eddie Irvine, until after the Australian grand prix, next week. Max Mosley, president of the sports governing body, the International Automobile Federation, said yesterday. It had been thought that the federation might suspend Senna before the last race of the season, in Adelaide on November 7, after he had punched Irvine during a dispute over race tactics following the Japanese grand prix last Sunday, which Senna won. Irvine, who was driving in his first grand prix, is considering legal action against Senna.

"We are still waiting for a report from officials," Mosley said. "It will be examined and we will decide if we should take further action. Nothing can happen before the next World Council meeting on December 10."

Senna is expected to dominate the championship next season after his move to Williams, but the FIA, which stepped back from disciplining Alain Prost before the beginning of this season over comments he made about the way the sport was governed, could stamp its authority on Formula One and throw the race for the drivers' title wide open if it suspends the Brazilian for several races in 1994. Qatar is to build a \$30 million desert race track that it has been assured will join the Formula One circuit from 1996. Mohamed bin Fahd al Thani, the head of the Qatar Automobile Club and a member of the ruling family, and Bernie Ecclestone, the head of the Formula One Constructors Association, will sign a contract in Doha next week guaranteeing to put the emirate on the racing map in three years.

Dexter's duties to be divided

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION over who should run the affairs of the England cricket team is set to continue until next spring but one thing emerged plainly yesterday. Ted Dexter, who resigned in August as chairman of the England committee, will be replaced not by one man but by two. A special meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board at Edgbaston was called specifically for discussion rather than decisions and no individual candidates were proposed. But a majority view of delegates, which surely cannot be ignored, believes that responsibility for selecting and administering the national team should no longer fall under the same umbrella.

The likely outcome, though probably no sooner than next March, is a return to the role of chairman of selectors, last held by Peter May in 1988 but now to be answerable to an England committee with a different chairman. Both committees would report to the Board's cricket committee, chaired by Ossie Wheatley, which would remain the primary source of direction for the English game. This, to the cynically inclined, may seem suspiciously like the guilty men hiding behind an ever-increasing number of committees but it is an idea of some merit when the sheer volume of administration connected with the national team is considered. Playing and preparation schedules for senior, A-team and age-group sides are ever more demanding to organise, quite apart from the complex requirements of diverse but essential sponsorships.

This was the work undertaken by Dexter, unseen and widely unappreciated even by

a number of counties, let alone by those intent only on lampooning him for the failings of the Test team. Eventually, and inevitably, he was driven out of office by misconceptions and mischievous-making. It would have been wasteful if Dexter's demise had led to the disbanding of the England committee before its methods could be fairly judged. Thankfully, following yesterday's meeting, this is unlikely.

Alan Smith, the chief executive of the board, said: "The England committee will stay in being and much of its work was warmly commended. Members of the board did feel, though, that the function of selection should be hived off."

Within the new division of duties, the England committee's work would continue as before but without the false accountability for picking the right players. If the county chairmen have their way, this higher-profile job will be carried out under a chairman whose links with the game may be more recent than those of some of his predecessors. He will work with the captain, team manager and up to three additional selectors, who may

be appointed on a regional basis. The timetable for this projected structure will not please those clamouring for an immediate cure to the ills of the England team. "There is no feeling of panic," Smith said, "though everyone is naturally concerned we appoint the right men." The board's executive committee is to draw up formal proposals, reflecting views expressed yesterday, and these will be further discussed at a scheduled meeting in December. Counties will be asked for their nominations for the various available posts during January and February. All should be made public in March. By that time, England's fate in the Caribbean, where they play five Test matches and five one-day internationals, may also be clear. It is not a tour likely to lift the mood of anxiety surrounding national affairs but its conduct, on and off the field, will help decide the future role of the tour manager, Mike Smith, who is the national favourite to take over as England committee chairman, if not as chairman of selectors.

Mike Smith: candidate

Sutton take aim at goal of consistency

BY ALIX RAMSAY

WHILE the rest of the women's national hockey league takes a weekend off, Sutton Coldfield travel to Liverpool seeking to repeat their success against Hightown last month, when they won 3-1. That match was a turning point for Sutton, their first win of the season and their first league win over Hightown since 1990. Victory on Saturday would put the Birmingham side level on points with the leaders, Slough and Leicester, and put them back in the firing line as the championship race gains momentum. With the league contested on a home-and-away basis, Sutton have the chance to make up for their quiet start to the season. Having defeated the champions, Ipswich, two weeks ago, they believe they are on a roll. The elder statesman of the side, Jane

Swinnerton, is still scoring goals at the age of 39 and relishing the challenge of facing her former England and Great Britain colleague, Maggie Souyave, the player-coach of Hightown. At the age of 40, Souyave is also proving that youth is no match for experience. "We have had a few changes this year," Swinnerton said. "We lost a few players and we have only now adjusted to it. I don't think anybody thought we would do well this year and that has taken the pressure off us." Swinnerton is the second highest goalscorer in the league this season and has finished joint leading scorer for the past two seasons. "Scoring goals is something you can't teach; you just have an instinct for it," she said. "Over the last two or three years I have built up a good understanding with

Jane Sixsmith and she knows where I want the ball placed." Swinnerton knows the match on Saturday will be testing, but she has learnt to overcome such obstacles. Over the years she has had more than her fair share of injuries, breaking bones in her jaw, cheek and foot, and has had to play through a series of back injuries. These days she copies the England training regime and works closely with John Brewer at Lilleshall to keep her joints in working order. "I've always loved training but now I have to have more respect for my body," she said. "We have played Hightown so many times we know them well. After last month their pride is hurt and they have a lot to prove." "We are quietly confident and I don't care who scores the goals so long as we win."

Smyth leads after day of scoreboard confusion

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DES Smyth, the 40-year-old Irishman, was jubilant after shooting a seven-under-par 65 to lead the field after the first round of the Madrid Open at the Puerta de Hierro golf club yesterday. "This is my best round for a long time and the best score I have had this year," he said. "This was a really easy 65. Sometimes you scramble a good score by chipping in and knocking in long punts, but today I played really well and I'm very pleased."

Smyth's round, which gave him a one-shot lead over the Spanish amateur, Luis Gabardía, and a two-shot lead over the Spanish professional Juan Quiros, was one of the few consistent features of a chaotic day. The tournament was delayed by 20 minutes because yesterday's torrential rain had flooded all the bunkers and greens, and preferred lies were allowed on the fairways. The greenkeeping staff, beginning at first light, did a magnificent job in getting the course ready so quickly, but inexperienced scoreboard operators got 19 of the first 81 scores wrong.

Even Smyth, who started at the 10th hole, was puzzled. He said: "I saw from the leaderboards that I was five under par for my first nine holes when I was only four. They gave me a birdie two at the 17th where I had a par three. It could only happen to an Irishman." Unfortunately, that was not the case as 18 other players found they were credited with scores higher or lower than they had achieved. Smyth, however, was not concerned. He had five birdies and an eagle three at the 499-yard 15th hole with only two putts of more than 12 feet.

Scores, page 44

Whitaker leads on novice Elton

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN MILLSTREET

MICHAEL Whitaker made a dramatic start to the Millstreet World Cup Show when he and the inexperienced Dutch-bred stallion, Elton, went into the lead in the opening international speed class after a spectacular round against the clock. Whitaker started riding the seven-year-old stallion, owned by the Belgian, Guido Brownings, only three weeks ago.

He brought him to Millstreet "to continue his education", thinking he would just take him gently round a few small classes. But Whitaker, who hates not winning, changed his mind in the ring. "I thought I'd try him out and see what happened," Whitaker said after his round. The powerful stallion, who has been to five local shows and not touched a fence, gave a copybook response, completing the 12-fence course clear in 46.56sec.

David Broome had held the early lead in the competition when he and Feedback produced the first clear round. But his time of 51.34 was quickly put into perspective by Whitaker. Whitaker's wife, Veronique, was also clear on Everest Flarepath, the horse she will ride in the Volvo World Cup qualifier tomorrow, but collected a quarter of a time fault.

Earlier, Noel Duggan, the owner of Millstreet, disclosed that, against his better judgement, he would withdraw his famous bank from Sunday's Derby in accordance with the new ruling from the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) banning indoor banks. But the entrepreneurial Duggan had harsh words for the FEI—which instigated the ban following the death of the Swiss horse, Sir Arkay, on the ill-conceived Wembley bank a year ago. "It is ridiculous," Duggan said, "that the FEI should condemn a tried and tested obstacle because of those who

tried to emulate it elsewhere—unsuccessfully. Look at what's happened in British eventing this year: but they don't ban an obstacle just because an accident has occurred there. Duggan designed and built his bank, at a cost of nearly £30,000, three years ago and welcomed by both spectators and riders. Two hundred horses have jumped down it, all without injury. Duggan, who comes from a long line of horsemen, has always made the safety of the horse paramount. He insists that all horses coming down the bank wear studs in their shoes to make sure they do not slip. Many of the riders at the show this week have been asking Duggan if there is anyway the bank can still be incorporated in the course but Duggan accepts that this is impossible. "I'm not going to take the FEI on," he said. "Little people in big positions make it difficult for big people in little places. I think they've made a mistake but I don't think a legal battle would do anyone any good."

Michael Whitaker, last year's winner, starts as favourite for Sunday's £30,000 Derby with Moonsanta. Duggan was giving little away about the course yesterday but said he had "new ideas" to replace them.



Broome: surprise leader

SPORT IN BRIEF

word to a book published in 1937 by Cliff Jones, who died three years ago.

But it is really that old-fashioned? What a furor has arisen over the new laws and how, he said, the middle class is provided with present-day "shirkers." If this is the case nowadays the author provided an answer 60 years ago. Simply mix your tactics.

"May I say," the author concluded, "that 90 per cent of our forwards although essentially scrummagers were versatile and could be made wingers if the necessity arose." So much for the expectation of today, forwards with their acknowledged athleticism. The game may change in appearance but the eternal verities, you must never forget, remain the same.

MOTOR SPORT: Colin McRae, from Scotland, was yesterday forced into second place by the former world champion, Ari Vatanen, of Finland, on the penultimate stage of the 3,800km Hong Kong to Peking rally. McRae had led for two days before Vatanen made his move. Possum Bourne, from New Zealand, is third, but little more than three minutes separates the trio. The final day begins today by the Great Wall of China and takes in the Ming tombs on the way to the finish at Tiananmen Square outside the Forbidden City.

On the eve of a crucial match, Freeman will gather his players for words of encouragement. Confidence would grow from a repeat of the exhibition Freeman gave Edwards in the recent defeat of Wigan. Then, he might look forward to seeing his wife and her awards of silence.

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هكذا آمننا بالله



Revering in the loneliness of the long-distance runner, Nerurkar completes his marathon training yesterday with a run by the River Nene near Northampton

Nerurkar plans fluent rise to success

As Richard Nerurkar drew away from the field during the last two miles of the Hamburg Marathon in May, the finish-line television began to prepare for the camera by scribbling some questions in English. At the end of the tunnel, she approached Nerurkar, who wasted her notes by responding in fluent German, a surprise which the crowd listening to the winner on Tannoy applauded. His Spanish could come in useful this weekend.

Nerurkar runs in the World Cup marathon in San Sebastian on Sunday. The focus of attention will be on the Chinese women, who move up in distance after their world records at 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres last month, but while the women's race seems a foregone conclusion, as far as which nation will provide the champion, the men's is as open as the Marlborough Downs on which Nerurkar trains.

Nerurkar is among 20 or so athletes who have a chance. Not that you would put Nerurkar at 20-1. If there is a man in the field who will be thinking on his feet more than any other, it is the graduate of Oxford and Harvard universities.

"The longer the event, the more you use your head and Richard is very good at using his head," Bruce Tulloh, Nerurkar's coach and a for-

mer European 5,000 metres champion, said. The athlete's combination of intelligence, ability and four years' experience in world championship cross country and track racing brings hope that here may be an athlete to give Britain the male distance luminary it needs.

Sure, Eamonn Martin won the London Marathon in April, the sixth home winner, and Steve Jones set a world best in 1984, but a championship title has not come Britain's way in 17 races since Ian Thompson's Commonwealth and European gold medals in 1974. Some indication of Nerurkar's potential for the European or Commonwealth marathon next year may be provided now.

It may even be an opportunity for him to show whether he can keep up with a fastish pace and deliver a finish. If



David Powell looks at a British athlete who prepares to challenge the world's best this weekend

there is a frustration in watching Nerurkar race at the highest level, it is that he tends to keep closer to the comfort zone than most.

He picks his speed and is faithful to it, with the result that, for the past three years, he has been Britain's most consistent cross country and 10,000 metres man. He does not, however, have a medal to show for it, though his fifth place in the 1991 world championship 10,000 metres was a credit to his tactical nous. Yet what might happen if he took a risk and went with the leaders on Sunday, always assuming they do not set off at under 2hr 8min pace?

The Hamburg Marathon suited Nerurkar perfectly. He won with a second half quicker than his first. At one point, he was 55sec off the pace and, for 17 miles, he could not see the leaders. As they fell away, Nerurkar came through to win in 2hr 10min 57sec, a satisfying time for a debut at the distance, but one which has been beaten by 11 other men this year.

In conditions more conducive to quick running than at the last Olympic Games and two world championships (none was won inside 2hr 13min), the early pace is likely to be brisk. Can Nerurkar afford the same luxury of a

cautious that he allowed himself in Hamburg, given the higher quality of the field?

"It is going to be a different kind of race," he said. "No, to answer your question, you can have two or three plans, but you also have to be flexible."

"I want to achieve the highest honours and I have more chance in the marathon than any other event," Nerurkar, who, at 29, is gravitating away from the 10,000 metres, said.

Since Hamburg, Nerurkar has run his fastest 10,000 metres, 27min 40.03sec, and set a time for ten miles that is quicker than the world best recognised by the Association of International Marathons and Road Races. His 46min 2sec, which he clocked in Twickenham a fortnight ago, has confirmed that he is in the best shape of his life.

"Going into Hamburg I had been ill in March and had not had the full marathon build-up," Nerurkar said. "You need more than seven to eight weeks, more like ten to 12 weeks, and that is what this one has been." Only six long runs of 22 to 24 miles in preparation may seem a light schedule to the Chinese women, but Nerurkar is satisfied.

He once said, in his teacher days at Marlborough College public school, that he did not think he could ever become a full-time athlete because he enjoyed the stimulation and stress of teaching in combination with the unwinding effect of running over Marlborough Downs. It was an ideal not to be given up lightly.

However, that was before this athlete who was once no more promising than being the 7th finisher in the English youths' cross country championship, developed into international class. Two years ago, he left his teaching post because he was not getting the best from his running. He has thus had time to spend three weeks recently at altitude, in the Pyrenees at Font Romeu, to prepare for the World Cup.

"Being on the French-Spanish border, lots of Spaniards come up to Font Romeu," Nerurkar said. He had the chance, too, to improve his Spanish — "I do like speaking the lingo". Spanish television might be glad of his interest come Sunday lunchtime.

S Africa bids for world championships

SOUTH Africa is mounting a late challenge to Mexico to host the 1997 world athletics championships, but it is unlikely to succeed (David Powell writes).

If the championships go to high altitude in Mexico City, as seems certain, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) will face a barrage of criticism for failing to find a venue for fair competition.

When the 1968 Olympic Games were staged in Mexico City, the distance running events were dominated by

athletes born at altitude while those who were not struggled in the oxygen-thin air. There was a succession of world records in the sprints, partly due to the rarefied air. Johannesburg is hardly the ideal alternative; at 1,700 metres above sea level, it is only 600 metres lower than Mexico City.

Unfortunately for the sport, Australia has withdrawn its interest. Athletics Australia had been considering a bid, but Neil King, the general manager of Athletics Australia, said: "We will not be bidding for 1997, but we have been

discussing whether to consider 1999. "Even that may present problems because we are a country of limited resources and we have the Olympic Games the following year."

The deadline for bids is Sunday, and Gert Le Roux, the secretary of Athletics South Africa, said yesterday: "We have decided to bid. I think the IAAF will get a surprise when it sees our bid."

The Johannesburg facilities will compare with the best in the world."

All have been approved with a view to the city bidding for the 2004 Olympics.

New stadium plan leaves no place for Poole Town

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

POOLE Town, the Beazer Homes League club, are to lose their home at Poole stadium after the local council had decided that the stadium should be redeveloped to international standard for speedway, that greyhounds be reintroduced and that the football pitch turned into four five-a-side pitches.

Clive Robbins, the Poole chairman, said: "The stance the council has taken is that you can make money out of speedway and greyhounds. Unfortunately, in essential commercial terms, you can't make money out of football."

"We've never owned the freehold, it's the council's ground, but we've built two stands and everything that's in it in the Fifties and Sixties and are now being kicked out. The council has agreed to use its offices to find us a new ground, but it's offered us no assurance that we can expect any financial help. However, talks are at an exploratory stage and we hope in the next two weeks the situation will become clearer."

"The council may feel football is a minority sport, but it isn't really a minority sport. When a town has a football club and it has a little run, everyone in the town is cheered up by it."

Poole have been playing under a new manager, Keith

Miller, for the past two weeks. Stuart Morgan, the former Torquay United manager, has taken over at Dorchester Town. Wimborne Town have approached Annie Bassett, dismissed as Bournemouth chief executive this week, to head their commercial department.

Bridlington Town had the sort of hot streak every club wants last season, winning the FA Vase at Wembley, the HFS Loans League first division and the East Riding Cup. A continuing wrangle with the local authority over the contents of the lease on their Queensgate Ground has forced Bridlington to play their home matches in the Northern Premier League pre-



Bassett: approach

mier division this season at Doncaster Rovers, 50 miles away. The club's chief benefactor, Ken Richardson, has sold his interest and the manager, Colin Richardson, resigned on Monday because the club sold a player above his head.

Alan Proudlock, the club secretary, said: "We are financially crippled, our gates at Doncaster are halved and our ability to raise money from advertising and sponsorship effectively removed."

"What little money we have is being spent on legal bills trying to persuade the local council to allow progressive football club to return to its home town and climb to the top of non-league football."

"We are in a Catch 22 situation. If we use our money to fight the council, we will not be able to pay the players and Bridlington will lose a fine football club that has brought honour to the town. We are at the eleventh hour of a cruel game of political and legal wrangling."

Proudlock and Steve Brentano, the captain, organised the team that went down 3-1 at Gainsborough Trinity on Tuesday. "The players have been terrifically loyal," Proudlock said, "but they have not been paid any travelling expenses for some weeks. Unless help is forthcoming, the club's end may be swift."

Late goal by Iraq denies Japan spot in World Cup

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SAUDI Arabia reached the World Cup finals for the first time and South Korea for the third time after a tense finish in the first round of the Asian zone qualifying group in Qatar yesterday, but their reactions as they came off the field offered a stark contrast.

Saudi Arabia were euphoric after their 4-3 victory over Iran, but the South Koreans left the field in tears thinking they had lost their chance of reaching the finals in the United States. Although they had beaten their neighbours and bitter rivals, North Korea, 3-0 in their final group game, they believed that Japan had piped them for the second qualifying place courtesy of a 2-1 defeat of Iraq.

Only as they left the field did new filter through that the Iraqis had snatched a 2-2 draw, thanks to a last-minute goal from Jaffer Omran Salman, and given the South Koreans their passage to the finals on goal difference.

The draw with Iraq was a bitter blow for Japanese hopes of staging the World Cup finals in 2002. Although the new J-League has been a marked success in this, its inaugural season, the credibility of Japan's attempt to host the 2002 tournament would have been hugely enhanced by qualifying for the 1994 finals.

The finals games in the

group were all played at the same time around Qatar and it was quickly apparent that Saudi Arabia would be one of the qualifiers. They went two up in the first half-hour through Saudi al-Jaber and Fahad Mehalid shots, the substitute, Mansour al Mosa, got the third and Hanzah al Falatah headed the fourth. The Iranians were never a serious threat and Javed Marafi's last-minute goal, although making it 4-3, flattered them.

All South Korea's goals in the "derby" with North Korea came in the second half. Ko Jong-woon shot them ahead in the 49th minute, Hwang Sung-hong added a second five minutes later and Ha Seok-ju got the third in the 76th minute.

The disconsolate Japanese had to be helped off the field after twice yielding a lead to Iraq. Kazuyoshi Mitara put Japan ahead in the sixth

minute, but, after sustained pressure, Radhi Amish equalised early in the second half.

Against the run of play, Masashi Nakayama scored Japan's second in the seventeenth minute, but Amish levelled matters again with a header in injury time.

The World Cup qualifying match between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will definitely go ahead at Windsor Park on November 17.

There were fears that the game may be shelved due to increasing sectarian violence in the province over the past few weeks, but, at a meeting yesterday in Geneva between the general secretary of FIFA, the game's world governing body, Sepp Blatter, and senior officials from the Football Association of Ireland it was decided that the crucial fixture would proceed.

The teams have met in Belfast twice before, but the tension surrounding next month's match has been heightened because the Republic's qualification for the World Cup finals in the United States next year depends on the outcome. Northern Ireland have already been eliminated.

Fourteen people have been killed in sectarian attacks in Northern Ireland in the past week.

Welsh are prepared to discuss contract with Yorath

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Football Association of Wales (FAW) yesterday announced it was ready to discuss a new contract with the manager of the Welsh national team, Terry Yorath. Yorath's deal expires after the final, crucial World Cup qualifying tie against Romania in Cardiff on November 17.

However, at the next FAW Council meeting, seven days earlier, a committee will be set up to talk terms with the former Leeds United, Coventry City, Tottenham Hotspur and Vancouver Whitecaps midfielder player, who won 59 caps for his country.

Yorath, who has been in charge for five years — since June 1991 on a full-time basis — has steered Wales to the brink of next year's finals in the United States. Wales know that a two-goal win against Romania next month will put them through, but a single-goal victory may be enough. Cardiff Arms Park is already sold out for the game.

The FAW secretary, Alun Evans, also said that the FAW have proposals on bonuses to put to the Wales players if they reach the finals. Unlike the majority of competing countries, Wales players have not, so far, been offered any monetary incentive during the group four qualifying stages.

Nottingham Forest are rushing to sign the Norwegian, international, Lars Bohinen. The 24-year-old midfielder player has been on loan with Lillestrom for the past year and Forest must sign him before Sunday or he will return to Young Boys BSC, the Swiss club, scuppering his proposed £450,000 transfer to Nottingham.

Forest have called in FIFA, the game's world governing body, to sort out the problem between the clubs, who are contesting Bohinen's registration, but the Forest manager, Frank Clark, is upset at the hold-up because clearly all the details between the player and Forest have been settled.

"We were assured we would receive notification this week concerning Lars and there is nothing we can do until we get it," Clark said. "It's all very frustrating but we don't want to do anything illegal by forcing the issue."

Jordi Cruyff, 19, the son of the Barcelona coach, Johan Cruyff, yesterday signed a four-year contract with the Spanish champions exactly 20 years to the day since his father made his debut for the club. The younger Cruyff signed a contract until the end of the 1997 season. He has been playing as an amateur in the club's second team.

Parrott defeats Clark in another close call

BY PHIL YATES

JOHN Parrott narrowly avoided falling victim to the inevitable tension generated by a deciding-frame finish before he overcame a spirited challenge from Martin Clark to win their quarter-final in the Skoda grand prix 5-4, at Reading yesterday.

Parron, given a scare in the second round when he was forced to win the last two frames to beat Steve Duggan, the world No 96, 5-4, seemed on his way to a more comfortable passage when he led Clark 4-1. Clark, though, had compiled breaks of 95, 48, and 55 to that point and a run of 126 in the sixth frame proved the catalyst for his recovery to 4-4.

"My heart was coming out of my waistcoat in that last frame," said Parrott, who trailed 41-27 when Clark failed to pot the penultimate red to a baulk pocket. Parrott coped with the intensifying pressure to clear to blue and he added the pink after Clark had missed an awkward cut.

Parron, who now meets Peter Ebdon in a best-of-19 frame, two-day semi-final, was sweating profusely during the post-match press conference, in which he introduced his usual levity. "My wife's having a baby in January and I'll be giving birth before her at this rate. There was so much pressure out there."

Before this tournament, beligerent shot selections and his portlytail were regarded as Ebdon's trademarks. In each of his matches here, tenacity has been a feature of the former world junior champion's approach. Never more so than during his 5-4 victory over Gary Wilkinson on Wednesday night.

When Wilkinson established a 4-1 lead, after compiling a 136 clearance in the first frame — the highest break of the televised phase — Ebdon, who beat Stephen Hendry 5-4 in the second round, appeared headed for defeat. However, Ebdon finds defeat difficult to accept. He rallied after losing the opening two frames to beat Chris Scanlon 5-2 in the first round and, against Hendry, constructed breaks of 72 and 78 in fighting back from 3-4. Such obduracy was the key as he reached the semi-finals of a ranking event for the first time.

Even when Ebdon won the sixth frame there was little to suggest the purple patch that was to follow. Growing in confidence and resolve, he compiled breaks of 76 and 125 to level at 4-4 before winning the deciding frame on the blue.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: J Parrott (Eng) 5-4 M Clark (Eng); 5-4; P Ebdon (Eng) 5-4 Wilkinson (Eng), 5-4.

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BBC1

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 **Jayce and the Wheeled Warriors.** Animation series (154455) **6.50 The Wombles** (154456) **7.00 The Great Escape** (154457)
- 7.00 **You Bet Your Life!** American game show hosted by comedian Bill Cosby (91 Y) (59349)
- 9.30 **Schools.** Eureka! (4496233) 9.45 **Shop, Lovin' Them** (4082594) 10.00 **Changing Water** (786116) 10.25 **Cliffure** (3983975) 10.40 **On Line** (7801252) 11.05 **Choices** (2094726) 11.22 **Sat One** (4215691) 11.40 **How we used to Live** (855398)
- 12.00 **Home to House.** Maya Evans with an inside view of the day's political news (62613)
- 12.30 **Sesame Street.** Early-learning series with actress Rhea Perlman (18271)
- 1.30 **The Clutter.** Cartoon adventures of the forest-dwelling creatures (U) (7283358)

1.55 **FILL: The Duke of West Point** (1938, b/w) start
Louis Hayward as a Cambridge graduate who
talks friends him into joining the army as a soldier
of West Point. However, his sons foul of the cadet
code. Honor. Directed by Alfred E. Green (290839)

3.55 **Eat Up** is the traditional school meal a prima
source of nutrition or just junk food? (t) (Teletext
4449252)

4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**. (Teletext) (s) [823]


5.00 **Cutting Edge**. (t). (Teletext) [8523]

6.00 **Hangin' with Mr. Cooper**. Comedy starring M.
Curly. Mark and his flatmates take a group of his
school students on a hilarious trip with disastrous
results. (Teletext) (s) (788)

6.30 **Happy Days**. Fries comes to prison. Force pulled
undoing love to Ashley, but then loathly allows
former girlfriend to stay the night in his flat. (Teletext
769)

7.00 **Channel 4 News.** (Teletext) Weather (771639)
7.50 **First Reaction** (s) (495287)
8.00 **Class Action.** Includes a report on the fight of a
woman in Suffolk to get her husband's Syndrome to go
her local school. (Teletext) (8900)
8.30 **Brookside.** Soap drama set in a Merseyside
suburb. Katie Rogers has her eye on someone
special. (Teletext) (s) (4707)
9.00 **[CHOICE] Plant Life.** The Sensitive Plant
(Teletext) (5271)
9.30 **Cheers.** American cult comedy series set in a
California's former husband wants to become her
slave (r). (Teletext) (93271)
10.00 **News.** American medical comedy series. Gr
discovers that crime does not pay. (Teletext)
(63542)
10.30 **Clive Anderson Talks Back** to Sheila Easton

11.10 Eurotrash. The final programme of the off-the-wall series, includes an interview with Paul Verhoeven, the director of *Robocop* and *Basic Instinct*, an actor Rutger Hauer, accordionist Yvette Horner and Boy George perform a duet, plus the "prostitute tour" of Berlin with working girls Laura Merid and Max Leftlowe (g) (59/418/4)



Streetwise teenager Aiyana Johnson (11,45p)

11.45 FILM: Just Another Girl on the IRT (1992) stars Aiyana Johnson as a black teenager growing up in Brooklyn. With Kevin Thigpen, Ebony Jerido and Jerard Washington. Directed by Leslie Harris (78902)

1.25am (1.25am) Talk in (1331.65p). Ends at 1.55

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7.30pm **Love Finds Andy Hardy** (1938) **TV**
 Mickey Rooney stars himself with his
 first wife, Jean Harlow.
 8.45 **The Hardy Rodeo Hall** (1938, **B**).
 The Hardys inherit a huge estate from
 their father, and the family must decide
 whether to sell the land or keep it.
 10.15 **Andy to the Rescue** (1938) **TV**
 12.05 **Andy Hardy's Private Secretary**
 (1938) **TV**
 Andy finds it necessary to have
 a secretary. With Kathryn Grayson.
 2.05 **1938**

[illegible]

SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 1993

Ruddock
cleared
by video
evidence

By PETER BALL

NEIL Ruddock emerged unscathed from his encounter with the Football Association yesterday, an escape that leaves him facing a more physical examination by Wimbledon instead. The FA disciplinary committee yesterday found Ruddock not guilty of punching Mike Newell, of Blackburn Rovers, ensuring that the player will be available for the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Ruddock was charged after the FA inspected video evidence from the match between Liverpool and Blackburn that got out of hand following a heavy tackle by Jan Molby on Kevin Gallacher. Ruddock had insisted all along that he had been acting as peacemaker and on this occasion technology came to his aid as he used video evidence in his defence, employing the freeze frame to support his case.

"We went through the video on a freeze frame and, in the

the 1988 FA Cup final, when Wimbledon lived up — or down — to their 'Dirty Dozen' image. Ruddock and Julian Dicks, however, are likely to be less impressed by threats in the tunnel than some of Liverpool's 1988 side were, so it should be a lively night.

With five of this week's matches requiring replays, yesterday's draw leaves a lot of the other ties still hanging in the air, but it already looks to have achieved two objectives: the biggest guns have been kept apart while offering some potentially fascinating meetings.

After their dismissal of Leicester, Manchester United must wait to see whether they return to Everton, where they won 1-0 on Saturday, or go to Selhurst Park to face Wimbledon's landlords, Crystal Palace. Both provided testing, and in the case of Palace, vigorous, opposition at Wembley in the last ten years, but these days United look capable of winning on either ground.

Whoever wins the replay, Alex Ferguson was not complaining: "It's a splendid draw for us," the United manager said. "I hope it's Everton, because there will be no travel involved and there would be a great atmosphere, but if it is Palace, then we will be playing on my favourite ground."

Arsenal, the holders, will have home advantage if they win their replay at Norwich, but harder-looking opposition in Aston Villa, who these days seem a better side away from home.



Ruddock peacemaker

light of that, the notion that Ruddock punched a Blackburn player was not proved to our satisfaction," David Bloomfield, the FA press officer, said.

The FA was in liberal mood all round yesterday, letting Par van den Hauwe off with a warning for elbowing Shaun Newton, of Charlton Athletic, off the ball 14sec after he had come on as substitute in a match with Millwall. Afterwards, Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, was less complimentary about the virtues of modern technology.

"If you used videos all the time, it would undermine match officials completely," McCarthy complained. Perhaps he should talk to Ruddock.

Wimbledon's forwards can generally look after themselves, so they will be unconcerned about the Liverpool defender's escape. The meeting at Anfield is one of only three definite ties among the eight matches and undoubtedly the most emotive, recalling

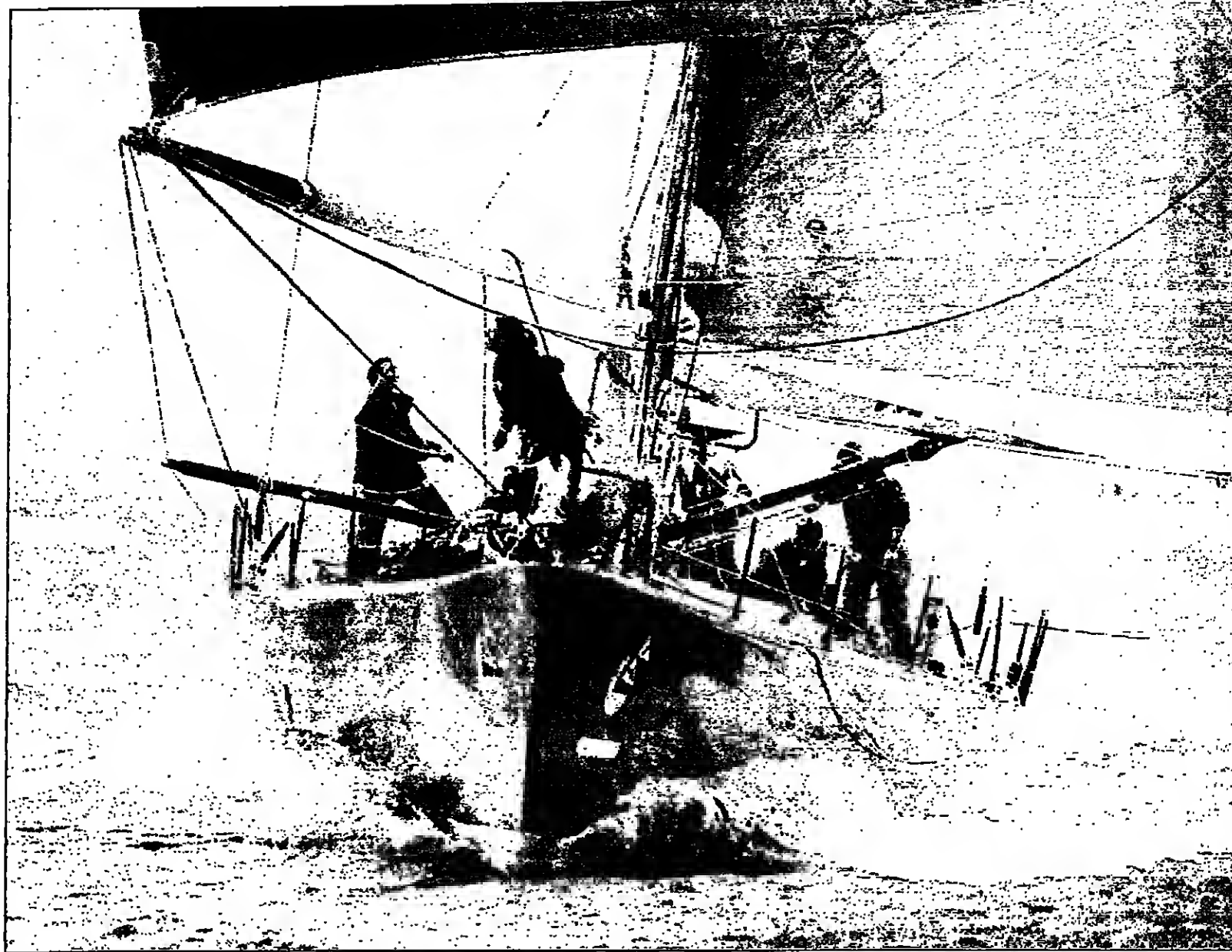
Villa are not the only side to find counter-attacking and exploiting the greater room available away from home more rewarding and Tottenham Hotspur will be aware that home advantage against Blackburn may not be worth much, assuming that Blackburn prove the point at Gay Meadow in the replay with Shrewsbury. Blackburn have looked a much more formidable team on their travels and if they get through it could prove the tie of the round. The two teams get an early chance to inspect one another this Saturday, when they meet at Ewood Park.

The two games that are definite with Liverpool take Manchester City to the City ground, Nottingham, and Oldham to Tranmere, both far from comfortable tasks for the Premiership teams. Tranmere knocked Oldham out of the Cup last year and Joe Royle, the Oldham manager, said: "It's an excellent chance for us to go to Merseyside seeking a bit of revenge."

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

Blackpool or Peterborough v Portsmouth
Queens Park Rangers v Middlesbrough or Sheffield Wed
Everton or Crystal Palace v Manchester United
Arsenal or Norwich City v Aston Villa
Liverpool v Wimbledon

Tottenham v Blackburn Rovers or Shrewsbury Town
Tranmere Rovers v Oldham Athletic
Nottingham Forest v Manchester City
Ties to be played on week starting November 29



US Women's Challenge, which has run into a crew protest in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in the Whitbread Round the World Race

Walk-out puts skipper in troubled waters

NANCE Frank's penniless Whitbread Round the World Race entry, US Women's Challenge, ran into trouble yesterday when two leading crew members walked off the boat at Punta del Este, Uruguay, where the fleet is preparing for the next stage to Fremantle, Australia.

Lack of confidence among the crew in Frank's ability as a skipper, together with concerns over future funding, led watch-leader Mikaela von Koskull and Adrienne Cahalan, Frank's Australian navigator, to walk out after calling for changes in the leadership.

The arguments had been simmering since the yacht reached Punta del Este a week ago, more than three days behind the leaders, and at one point nine of Frank's crew members were considering their future.

John Julian, a spokesman for US Women's Challenge,

said yesterday: "The girls have now had the chance to talk things through, and as we speak, all the others are staying on board."

Von Koskull, from Finland, is a veteran from Tracy Edwards's first all-woman entry, Maiden, in the last Whitbread race four years ago while Cahalan is a talented navigator and skipper. The two were among the most experienced sailors on board and their skills will be missed on the 7,500-mile leg through the Southern Ocean to Australia.

Frank said yesterday: "I regret the loss of Mikaela and Adrienne after all their hard work, and have thanked them for their major contribution to the project. I will be naming a new watch-leader and navigator in the next two days."

Frank and her one remaining watch-leader, Michele Paré, another Maiden veteran, are now looking for people they have sailed with before to

replace the two. Frank has also asked the committee to allow her to increase her crew from 12 to 14.

"A greater number is needed on board as a function of strength to cope with the harsh conditions expected in the Southern Ocean and we



Frank's problems

hope the committee will see it that way," Julian said. The rules limit the 60-footers to 12 crew and even if the committee agree to the change, it will require a unanimous vote from the other skippers. It is also not certain if other crew members will leave before the race restarts on November 13.

Frank's ambition to lead an all-women's crew in the Whitbread race has been dogged by controversy since she launched the project seven years ago to compete against Edwards's Maiden entry in the last race. Lack of funds then forced her to pull out immediately after the start. She returned this year with a boat chartered from Yamaha, but so far has raised little towards the \$19 million cost of the campaign.

The project came perilously close to ending before it began, when five creditors, sought to have her yacht chained to its berth until they received the

\$53,000 owed to them. That threat receded when lawyers for Frank pointed out that she had no title to the boat and that the only chance of getting money owed would be to compete in the race and raise more sponsorship.

Frank said at the start: "I've sunk every penny and seven years' hard work fund-raising to get to this stage."

Frank and her crew suffered considerable problems during the first 5,900-mile leg from Southampton. "Breakdowns proved the greatest handicap. We lost 63 hours sewing up the mainsail after it split three times," she said.

Yamaha, which has yet to receive its charter fee for the yacht, has offered to donate a new mainsail for the next leg and Frank has plans to buy another. "We can compete, but we are not competitive. The more money we can raise now, then the more competitive we will become," she said.

N Zealand
name top
line-up out
of respect
for rivalsBy DAVID HANOS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

NEW Zealand will pay the South and South-West Division the compliment of fielding their potential international pack in the third game of their tour at Redruth tomorrow. True, Robin Brooke might force his way in at lock if and when he is fit again but this is the experienced eight which dismantled London a week ago, in which Ian Jones makes his third appearance of the tour.

Jones was a key player against the Midlands on Tuesday, particularly in the final quarter when the result hung in the balance. The tour selectors might also wish to give him a look at Andy Blackmore in case the Bristol lock should be called up by England for his first international cap against the All Blacks next month.

The situation behind the scrum is less clear because Midlands did not permit their opposing backs any freedom. Jon Preston was harassed unmercifully behind the All Blacks' pack and he will hope for better protection tomorrow so that he can hold off the challenge at scrum half for the international place of Stu Forster.

Joining the midfield is Matthew Cooper, picked for the tour at full back but with extensive experience at centre for Wales.

Despite the utility label that could adhere to several of the backs, Laurie Mains, the New Zealand coach, said players had been picked as specialists "though they have the ability to play in different positions." Make of that what you will but John Timu, picked as a wing, becomes the third full back in three games, which suggests a degree of uncertainty, if no more, about the eventual wearer of the No 15 jersey.

Jeff Wilson, the young wing, also has the capacity to play full back but the task of go-kicking will also come into the equation. Cooper has answered that demand admirably, with six out of eight against London and two out of three against the Midlands.

NEW ZEALANDERS: J Timu, J Wilson, F Burke, M Cooper, V Tagamele, S Bloch, J Preston, C Dowd, S Fitzpatrick, O Brown, J Joseph, S Gordon, I Jones, P Handerson, A Pene, Tackasamama, M Ellis, S Forster, N Hewitt, M Allen, B Larsen, Z Brooke.

Wales team, page 44

Stein joins Chelsea in £1.5m move

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLENN Hoddle acted yesterday to try to revive Chelsea's flagging fortunes when he paid Stoke City £1.5 million for their forward, Mark Stein. The move from the Potteries to the King's Road completed an eventful 24 hours for Stein, 27, who was convicted of assaulting Jim Gannon, of Stockport County, on Wednesday after an incident at a match last March.

Stein scored 33 goals for Stoke last season and has already hit 13 in 19 matches this term. It was a record good enough to persuade Chelsea to offer him a three-and-a-half-year contract at Stamford Bridge.

Stein joined Stoke from Oxford for £100,000 in November 1991 and the Oxford move made around £350,000 from the move because their deal with Stoke stipulated that they would take around 25 per cent of any future transfer fee.

Stein, who claimed in court on Wednesday that he had been racially abused by Gannon, received support today from the Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor. Stein was given a 12-month conditional discharge, but Taylor said: "We do not feel that the outcome of the case is particularly just. Mark was subjected to very unpleasant and unacceptable racial harassment."

Stein is facing an FA disrepute charge for the Gannon incident.

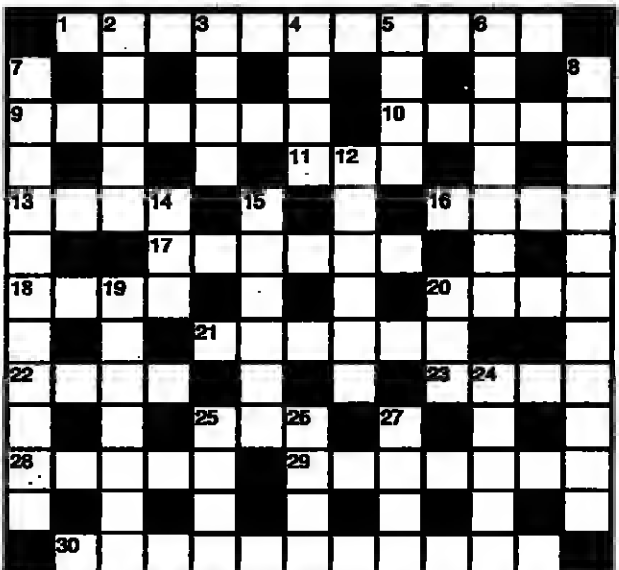
Tim Flowers, the sought-after Southampton goalkeeper, appears to have agreed to join Blackburn Rovers in a £2.4 million transfer in preference to a move to Liverpool. Flowers, 26, twice cancelled meetings with the Liverpool manager, Graeme Souness, on Wednesday and it is thought he has been offered a more lucrative deal by Blackburn.

The £1.75 million Newcastle United forward, Andy Cole, yesterday claimed that a dispute with the club's manager, Kevin Keegan, led to him missing Wednesday night's Coca-Cola Cup defeat

at Wimbledon. Cole travelled to south London with his team-mates, but was absent from Selhurst Park as Newcastle lost 2-1 in the third-round tie.

"I didn't walk out on the club," Cole said. "I told the gaffer that I was homesick and I was missing my mates and my family. That's only natural, but the gaffer flew off the handle and told me he didn't want me to play. I was prepared to play. I never ever said I didn't want to play."

The £2 million transfer of Tony Daley, the Aston Villa winger, to the Italian club, Udinese, was in danger of collapse last night. Daley is due to move to Italy on November 4, the day after Villa's UEFA Cup second-round second-leg tie with Deportivo La Coruña at Villa Park, but last night, Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, confirmed the deal was now on hold after attempts by Udinese to renegotiate a loan transfer until the end of the season. "That's no good to us," Atkinson said. "Either he goes now as originally agreed, or he stays here."



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ACROSS

- 1 Paris art museum (5,6)
- 9 Friendly (7)
- 10 Head top (5)
- 11 Draw off (3)
- 13 Thing (4)
- 16 Portent (4)
- 17 Deep narrow valley (6)
- 18 Hurl (4)
- 20 Grape remains brandy (4)
- 21 Scottish sheepdog (6)
- 22 Reduce sail area (4)
- 23 Period (4)
- 25 Join with thread (3)
- 28 Harmony (5)
- 29 Eton town boy (7)
- 30 Under the counter trade (5,6)

DOWN

- 2 Bring together (5)
- 3 Hamburg river (4)
- 4 Food allowance (4)
- 5 Grating noise (4)
- 6 Blood deficiency (7)
- 8 Promising archer sign (11)
- 12 Malcolm (2,3,6)
- 14 Married woman (3)
- 15 Elite Greek soldier (6)
- 19 Particular (7)
- 20 Encountered (3)
- 24 Invest (5)
- 25 Sound-picture merger (4)
- 26 Silk earth creature (4)
- 27 Box lightly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 3237

ACROSS: 1 Fetish 6 Grenlin 8 En route 9 Tuscany 10 Hov-el 11 Icon 12 Dead 15 Dope 17 Heap 19 Avoid 20 Mez-uzah 22 Epitome 23 Pilsner 24 Classy
DOWN: 1 Freehold 2 Thrive 3 Squallid 4 Less 5 Please 6 Get together 7 Nay 13 Drudgery 14 Spaniel 16 Puzzle 18 Porcus 20 Mop 21 Zone

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